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Ukrainian Prime Minister Fokin Resigns

Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk announced today at a session of the Supreme Council that "Prime Minister Vitold Fokin resigned with the purpose of reducing political confrontation in the republic when many parties, movements, and public organizations are accusing the government of being unable to cope with the problems in the economy and to extricate Ukraine from the crisis," reports ITAR-TASS. Kravchuk asked that Fokin "continue to carry out his duties until a new premier is appointed," at which time he will retire "on pension."

Yeltsin Retains Right To Use Internal Troops in Emergency

Russian President Yeltsin has "retained the right to use interior troops in areas where state of emergency has been proclaimed, according to amendments to the law on interior troops," which were proposed by Yeltsin and adopted by the Supreme Soviet on 25 September. Vasiliy Savvin, commander of the Russian interior troops, told ITAR-TASS that the interior minister has the right to use the troops "only in strictly limited cases which are not defined as a state of emergency." Savvin added that parliament also agreed to grant the president "the right to submit for parliamentary approval his proposals on the composition and strength of interior troops."

Meanwhile, Major General Anatoliy Aleksandrovich Chaykovskiy, chief of the Internal Troops Directorate of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, told Moscow TV that point number seven of the adopted law envisages the "duplicate subordination of the troops" to both central and local authorities and that this "contradiction" must be resolved by the politicians.

Shevardnadze Illness Postpones State Council Meeting

Georgian State Council Chairman Shevardnadze was not able to attend a session of the State Council yesterday because of "high temperature," ITAR-TASS reports. The meeting was postponed "for indefinite time in connection with the sudden illness."

Chemical Weapons Destruction Sites Discussed

PM2909133992 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 24 Sep 92 p 3

[Report by correspondent Aleksandr Dolgikh: "Chemical Weapons Must Be Destroyed. But Where? Perhaps Where They Were Being Produced Not So Long Ago?"]

[Text] Our correspondent visited the "Khimprom" production association in Novocheboksarsk.

Some preliminary information. Our Armed Forces have at present about 40,000 tonnes of toxic chemical agents in their arsenal. The Americans have approximately the same amount. Since 1987 production of these agents has stopped completely here (in the United States it stopped even earlier). On 23 September 1989 the USSR and United States presidents signed the "Memorandum on an Understanding Between the Governments of the Union of Soviet Socialists Republics and the United States of America Regarding a Bilateral Experiment to Monitor and Exchange Information in Connection with Banning Chemical Weapons," by which the sides undertook to give each other information about their facilities for producing chemical agents, their precise geographical location, the types of agents produced, and the munitions that had been prepared at particular enterprises.

In Geneva at the end of August the final meeting took place of experts who discussed the final version of the international Convention on Banning the Development, Production, Stockpiling, and Use of Chemical Weapons and their Destruction. It is very likely that it will come into force at the beginning of next year. Then, however, Russia, like other countries that possess these weapons, should destroy them within a 10-year period.

Novocheboksarsk is one of those cities that we are accustomed to calling factory cities. The first inhabitant registered here in 1961, and now there are about 130,000 inhabitants. It is difficult to say what was in the heads of the founders of the "Khimprom" production association, but, to all appearances, they did not from the very start envisage producing here toxic chemical agents. Paints, lacquers, dyes for the leather and textile industries, household chemicals—that is the basic list of output that is being produced even now. But at the beginning of the 1970's the so-called "production facility No. 3" was nevertheless created here, where since December 1972 one of the most potent organophosphoric toxic chemical agents—VX—has been manufactured, a fatal dose of which is only 0.4 milligrams. But only individual people knew about this production facility. Even among the republic's leadership only two or three people were privy to it.

Apart from the protection offered purely by its secret status, production was reliably concealed by technical means. The monitoring which the third Main Administration of the Ministry of Health carried out did not once record the presence of anything like VX in the soil, air, or water. Although, of course, during 15 years' continuous work incidents were impossible to avoid. For example, in 1974 there was a fire in the finished products storeroom. Firemen succeeded in putting it out quickly, but one or two of them were nevertheless "poisoned" slightly, which caused their "systems to be upset for a short time." There were also several unpleasant incidents connected with disturbances to the manufacturing cycle. But the documents testify that none of this had any serious consequences.

I repeat that production of toxic chemical agents was stopped as of 1987. Some 2,500 people, who until then had been working at "production facility No. 3," found themselves out of work at that point. It should be pointed out that these specialists were of a high class: Discipline, organization, and professionalism were the main criteria by which they were selected. The majority of them were assigned to other sections of "Khimprom," and some remained at "production facility No. 3." The point is that before basic production at "production facility No. 3" was halted, a few products were produced for the national economy: different kinds of plasticizers, kompleksony [meaning unknown, possibly chelates], and antioxidants. Incidentally, as concerns the antioxidants (agent used in tire production which prevents rubber from aging), they are not produced anywhere else in Russia apart from at Novocheboksarsk.

However, none of this goes any way at all to compensate the plant for expenses it is bearing owing to its equipment being at a standstill and having to maintain it in an appropriate state. This year alone they will amount to more than 135 million rubles [R]. Therefore, during the Russian president's recent visit to "Khimprom," those working at the plant asked him to resolve the question of "production No. 3" as quickly as possible.

The aforementioned draft convention enshrines the idea of using chemical weapons production facilities for these weapons' destruction. Therefore, it is highly likely that this is what the Novocheboksarsk workers will have to do in the near future. The Russian Federation president's Committee for Problems of Chemical and Biological Weapons Conventions is scrutinizing this option, and the "Khimprom" production association is in principle ready for this. It is estimated that the overall cost of this program to destroy toxic chemical agents will amount to about R3.5 billion at 1991 prices.

"Only this program," the association's deputy general director A. Shkuro said to me, "should be elaborated in a very open manner, and should be accompanied by authoritative expert examinations, right down to international ones, when it is being put into effect. Otherwise you will get what happened in Chapayevsk, when the city's inhabitants were confronted with the fact that a plant to destroy toxic chemical agents had been opened. Indeed, an expert examination confirmed that this plant was ecologically safe, but what was the sense in concealing what the people would sooner or later find out anyway?! The result was as follows: The plant, which is designed to destroy up to 350 tonnes of toxic chemical agents annually, has been standing idle for three years now."

Such questions as the siting of particularly dangerous plants should without doubt be resolved taking stock of the opinions of the people living there. On 12 June B. Yeltsin signed

the Decree "On Immediate Measures for Preparing To Carry Out Russia's International Obligations in the Area of Destroying Chemical Weapons Stockpiles," which stipulates the creation of benefits for those who will be engaged in destroying toxic chemical agents, the construction of social facilities and diagnostic centers in a 15 kilometer zone, and mandatory state insurance.

If we are to talk about the technology for destroying toxic chemical agents, it has already been produced in Russia, and has been approved by an international commission of experts. In short it amounts to the following. Shells, bombs, missile warheads, etc., which contain toxic chemical agents are first of all drilled through. Then the toxic agent is "sucked up" through the hole, and immediately detoxified. Materials that have undergone reactions are recycled or burned. This is as far as organophosphorus toxic agents (sarin, zaman [translation unknown], and VX) are concerned. There is every indication that Lewisite will through processing be used as a raw material for producing pure arsenic (which is used in radioelectronics).

That is how it is planned to destroy chemical weapons in our country. However, it is, nevertheless, unclear where this is going to take place. The final decision depends on many factors. First and foremost on those people who live in Novocheboksarsk, Volgograd, Chapayevsk, Berezniki, and other cities where this terrible weapon was produced just recently, and where there are the conditions for its destruction.

Grachev, Mikhaylov Criticize U.S. Nuclear Tests

PM2909121592 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 25 Sep 92 Morning Edition p 2

[Report by Nikolay Burbyga: "Inspection in Novaya Zemlya"]

[Text] A mixed commission headed by Army General Pavel Grachev, Russian minister of defense, and by Viktor Mikhaylov, minister of atomic energy, has been to the "Novaya Zemlya" test site.

What is the site's fate to be? In P. Grachev's opinion, it is necessary to preserve what was created earlier, because Russia cannot afford new construction today, and the site's old buildings are in need of significant repairs. As for the moratorium on nuclear explosions announced unilaterally by Russia last year, it is coming to an end.

"Unfortunately, none but the French have subscribed to it," Grachev said. "While in the United States, I put a question to Mr. Cheney, the defense secretary. The French and we have established a moratorium, I said, but you are carrying out explosions. For what purposes? Are you improving nuclear weapons? 'No,' he replied. 'Explosions are continuing so that personnel do not lose their skills, so as to check the reliability of the storage of nuclear munitions.'"

The pace of tests on the world's nuclear sites has not changed in any way from 1985 through 1992. Here are the figures: Nevada 98, Mururoa 52, Novaya Zemlya four, Lop Nor (China) five. In 1992 alone the United States has already conducted four tests.

Why do the Americans cling so stubbornly to nuclear tests? There are several reasons, Atomic Energy Minister Viktor Mikhaylov believes. First, the Americans are carrying out a nuclear test program lasting many years, which tackles not only military but also economic tasks in the interests of all of society. Second, they are less amenable to the influence of public opinion when it is a question of national interests.

Ukraine Backtracking on Nuclear Pledge Criticized

PM2909085392 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 25 Sep 92 p 3

[Report by Gennadiy Kostin: "Where Certain Senior Figures Are Taking Ukraine"]

[Text] The 1 June 1968 nuclear nonproliferation treaty is a highly important international document. In accordance with this treaty any increase in the number of states with nuclear weapons is seen as, to put it mildly, an extremely undesirable and simply inadmissible factor undermining stability in the world.

In accordance with this obvious logic the states that were previously part of the USSR reached the decision that only Russia is to retain the right to have the former Soviet Union's nuclear weapons. Thus they are not allowing the 1968 treaty to be undermined.

Today all tactical nuclear weapons have already been concentrated on Russian territory. The Russian Defense Ministry and Russian industry have been made responsible for the maintenance and storage of and necessary cuts in this arsenal.

The strategic nuclear weapons situation is more complex. They are still sited on the territory of four states—Russia, Kazakhstan, Belarus, and Ukraine. It is not that easy to redeploy strategic nuclear arms, and they include not only nuclear warheads, but also delivery vehicles. Ground-launched strategic nuclear missiles involve a ramified infrastructure—launch silos, command posts, technical servicing bases, and so on. There is a similar situation with regard to strategic heavy bombers limited by the START Treaty signed in Moscow last summer.

In view of these circumstances the CIS countries concluded 30 December 1991 the Minsk Strategic Forces Agreement, which envisages the procedure and timetable for the disassembly [razukomplektovaniye] of these weapons, including those now in Ukraine, by the end of 1994. And the Lisbon protocol of 23 May 1992 signed by the four CIS countries (on whose territory the former USSR's strategic nuclear weapons are sited) and the United States confirms the nuclear-free status of Belarus, Kazakhstan, and Ukraine and underlines these three states' commitments to officially subscribe to the nuclear nonproliferation treaty within the "shortest possible period" in line with their constitutional practice.

It is quite obvious that these states should juridically accede to the nonproliferation treaty before the START

Treaty comes into force. Without this its ratification cannot effectively be considered complete. But none of the aforementioned states has to date formalized its nuclear-free status. What is more, the West is starting to become seriously alarmed by Ukraine's intentions.

What am I referring to? According to REUTER, V. Tolubko and Yu. Kostenko, members of the Ukrainian Supreme Soviet Committee for Defense Questions who were recently in Washington, said that "Ukraine will not necessarily comply with the dates and commitments enshrined in the Lisbon protocol." According to the agency, that approach from Ukraine may herald serious problems for the START Treaty.

These Ukrainian parliamentarians claimed that Ukraine may not hand over to Russia for destruction the strategic missiles there. When the U.S. State Department's official spokesman was asked to comment on this statement, he replied; "In my opinion, the crux of the matter is that we all agreed with the START Treaty and other accords surrounding it. We consider them important and we must all stick to them."

It is amazing that there are senior officials in Ukraine who want to condemn their own country to a "status of disrespect" in the world community, not to mention possible economic and political isolation of the country such as perhaps only Iraq has experienced today.

General Denies CIS Holding Afghan POW's

LD2909175892 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1619 GMT 29 Sep 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Roman Zadunayskiy]

[Text] Moscow, 29 September—Regardless of what is said by Afghan President Borhanoddin Rabbani, there are no prisoners of war in the CIS, and in particular in Uzbekistan and Moldova. All mujahidin taken prisoner have been handed over to the Afghan authorities. This was stated today by Major General Ruslan Aushev, chairman of the Committee on Internationalist Servicemen attached to the Council of CIS Heads of Governments, in an interview with a TASS correspondent. Therefore, he said, all soldiers and officers of the Soviet Army taken prisoner during the time of combat actions in Afghanistan must be released irrespective of the political situation.

Aushev accused the Afghan president of once again using Soviet POW's for political aims. He reminded Rabbani of his words from last year about the USSR having carried out all the demands of the Afghan side and it being necessary to release Soviet POW's. It is evident from his Islamabad statement, however, that the Afghan side does not desire a fundamental solution to this problem, and things may continue endlessly in this way, the general stressed. In his view, such actions render very complex the process of talks on the release or ransoming of prisoners, which are proceeding with difficulty.

According to the data of the Committee for Internationalist Soldiers, 298 men now are listed as missing in Afghanistan. It is also known that 40 of them are alive and in the hands of the leaders of tribes, inter-tribe groupings, and field commanders.

Aushev promised that despite the evacuation from Kabul of the Russian Embassy and the weakening of contacts with the leaders of Afghanistan, his committee again will "contact the leaders of tribes and groupings where our boys are languishing in captivity." According to Aushev, in the next few days the situation that has arisen will be discussed at a meeting with Russian Vice President Aleksandr Rutskoy with a view to finding new methods of approaching this problem.

U.S. Congress Committee Approves CIS Aid Bill

LD2609125292 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1201 GMT 25 Sep 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Igor Barsukov]

[Text] Washington September 25 TASS—The U.S. House-Senate Conference Committee on Thursday [24 September] approved a bill on aid to newly independent states of the former Soviet Union. The law represents a compromise between the versions of the bill approved this summer by the Senate and the House of Representatives. Its main provisions were left unchanged.

The draft law provides for the United States to render the former Soviet republics technical assistance in pursuing political and economic reforms, in dismantling nuclear and other weapons, to provide the necessary humanitarian aid. The bill sets the ceiling for the expenditure on these purposes in the 1993 fiscal year at 460 million dollars.

The U.S. will also contribute to international efforts designed to ease transition of the new states to a market-based economy. Under the bill, the U.S. agrees to create a stabilisation fund for the currencies of new states. Its share in this fund is set at three billion dollars. Washington will earmark 12 billion dollars as an additional contribution to the International Monetary Fund.

Shaposhnikov on Commonwealth Collective Security

PM2909213992 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 30 Sep 92 pp 2-3

["Topical Theme" article by Marshal of Aviation Yevgeniy Shaposhnikov: "National and Collective Security in the CIS"]

[Text] The beginning of November will see a scientific-practical conference at the Joint Armed Forces High Command on problems of national and collective security in the CIS. As a kind of prologue to the discussion of topical defense questions at the conference, we are offering an article by Marshal of Aviation Yevgeniy Shaposhnikov, commander in chief of the CIS Joint Armed Forces.

The urgency of the solution of tasks of ensuring military stability for every state and for the international community is conditioned by the military political situation that obtains in the world. It has a dual influence on security in present-day conditions.

On the one hand, the end of the cold war and the move from confrontation to cooperation and integration processes in Europe and in the Far East create fundamentally new conditions for ensuring national and international security.

On the other hand, the elimination of the bipolar geopolitical structure of the world has caused a rash of regional and local military political contradictions and has led to significant changes in the system of international relations and the appearance of new "risk factors" and military conflicts as a result of this.

This process is aggravated by the fact that the arms race is not over yet and the sale of weapons is still based on the factor of economic and military gain. There is still the possibility of disruptive destabilization due to the creation of new types of weapons and there is still the danger of the proliferation of nuclear weapons, missiles, and missile technology.

As a result the tendency to use the strong arm approach to the solution of international problems is not a thing of the past. Moreover, it is beginning to get its second wind.

This, in turn, is due, in my view, to a number of circumstances of worldwide significance, above all to efforts by the leading Western countries to redesign the bipolar world into a unipolar military political space.

But the unipolar world, to my mind, is not viable, particularly from the military strategic viewpoint. It cannot exist for long. Neither in nature nor in society are there processes or phenomena with a single-pole charge, even if that pole is unequivocally positive. Counterweights will inevitably appear to balance and stabilize the situation. This is confirmed by the presence of such organizations as the United Nations, NATO, the CSCE, and the Western European Union.

Now there is a desire to create a new union on the basis of the Islamic factor in the South, incorporating the Central Asian states in the CIS. This could result in a new line of global confrontation on a "North-South" axis.

A system of collective security for the Commonwealth states could act as a stabilizing counterweight, and kind of balance to these and other systems. Unless joint efforts are made today to integrate the military political space in the CIS, the future development of the situation in the Commonwealth, in view of the different potentials of the states in it, could contribute to a transition to a multidimensional military-political situation on one-sixth of the world's dry land.

But whereas a multidimensional world is an objective fact, a CIS with a multiplicity of defense systems is, in my view, unnatural and cannot serve its peoples' interests. Its destructive power is obvious, no matter what slogans are added to it as trappings and no matter how it is decked out.

The current military political situation on the territory of the former USSR is complex and contradictory, and the state of affairs in certain regions of the Commonwealth is causing the entire world community concern.

This is explained by the fact that as a result of the disintegration of the USSR a considerable number of destabilizing factors have emerged. I will name only the most significant of them.

First, the growing epidemic of nationalism in some states. The adoption of discriminatory laws on citizenship and on the state language. The appearance of streams of refugees. The exacerbation of the problem of future ethnic minorities living outside their historic homeland.

Second, territorial claims due to past arbitrary determination of borders between republics.

Third, the desire to eliminate the "imperial center," which continues to exist, only at a lower level, which could result in the breakup of some independent states into smaller state entities.

Fourth, friction between independent states, aggravated by the incomplete process of the division of union property, which was created by all the republics, and uncertainty about each republic's share.

Fifth, the lack of economic stability, as a result of the rupture of economic links between the enterprises of the former Union republics and unilateral measures by the states' leaderships in the economic sphere.

Last, but no less important—the presence of Russian forces outside Russia increases tension, particularly in the Baltic states, which are increasingly appealing to the world community for their immediate withdrawal. I am sure that the forces will be withdrawn, but I also believe that to demand their immediate withdrawal without guarantees is to deliberately cause the situation in the Baltic area and in Russia to explode.

So, the question arises: What was better for the world community, for our peoples, and for us all—a one-dimensional, but significantly democratized union, or a multidimensional CIS with a multitude of destabilizing factors? I believe the answer is obvious.

A complex and ambiguous situation is developing in the defense sphere. If the division of political power was comparatively easy, the division of the common security of the union into the security of each sovereign state is not so easy. Some 15 new states have appeared on the political map of the union, with different ideas about systems of national security and different views of collective security problems.

Nonetheless, each individual Commonwealth state and all of them together have to tackle these problems. The solution process is one of transforming the single Armed Forces into national armed forces via joint armed forces, and in conditions of collective security, from single to joint. This transformation requires a transitional period, in my view. It could last two or three years, or even longer.

Perhaps in view of this one should think about creating mixed troop formations in the CIS, comprising units of the Commonwealth states' national armies. After all, we know that European countries already have experience of this.

The point is that we are faced with having to tackle a unique task. We have to build the system of collective security not according to the classic design, where states already possessing their own armies and national military infrastructures conclude a treaty of cooperation. We are having to tackle this task using what is, essentially, the opposite system.

Of course, these unusual factors make the process much more difficult. This is number one. Second, and also vital, is the fact that the vital interests of servicemen and members of their families, who are affected first and foremost and most directly by the transformation of the armed forces, must be properly guaranteed. This is particularly urgent in the case of forces being withdrawn from other countries. I have in mind both the social and legal aspects. Although this problem is currently being tackled at the interstate level, it requires resources and time, as well as coordination by the CIS Joint Armed Forces High Command.

The treaty "On Collective Security" signed by six Commonwealth states in Tashkent this May opens up favorable prospects for a joint, coordinated resolution of the whole gamut of major defense problems.

It may serve as a basis for forming a secure military and political alliance in the future, which guarantees both national and collective security. But there is no sense in artificially pushing this process along—not everybody has had his "fill" of sovereignty, there is still a fear of "big brother," and the word "alliance" has unhealthy association for some people. But everybody understands that practically speaking many CIS states are not in a position to provide a modern and effective defense of their states without a collective effort. Therefore, responsible and balanced decisions are necessary on such vitally important questions as staffing forces, their material provision, the system of devising and ordering equipment and arms, training personnel, providing information, and so forth.

It is obvious that legislative acts in the area of defense and the basic tenets of the military reform and of the Commonwealth states' military doctrines have to be coordinated.

This is necessary so that the resolution of questions of organizational development in defense, reforming the Armed Forces, and guaranteeing their social protection do not give rise to a feeling of dissatisfaction and unhealthy rivalry among servicemen who have ended up on the territory of various sovereign states.

Such phenomena are already present among servicemen. Some do not want to take an oath of loyalty to some state or other and find themselves in a complicated "limbo." Others, having taken such an oath, have come to doubt that they have made the correct choice. Their position is even more serious.

In some states servicemen's maintenance allowances are being doubled; in others they are being raised one and one-half times. There are states that do not give pensions to veterans of the Great Patriotic War. Questions of property which also affect people's interests have not been resolved. Therefore, it is reasonable to pose yet one more question—is such haste needed when dividing up the area of defense, a haste that is not in people's interests? I think that leading questions are not required to produce an answer.

On the other hand, you cannot turn back the clock. Therefore, it is extremely important within the CIS to have powerful and effective devices and mechanisms which coordinate all legislative acts and decisions by the Commonwealth states, including in defense, and which work in the interests of all peoples and all servicemen. In connection with this, the proposals of the Kazakhstan president to scrutinize the five basic principles for cooperation within the framework of the CIS at the next routine meeting in Bishkek are not only timely but also accord with the peoples' hopes.

This is not nostalgia for the past—this is dictated by our times. It is natural that these proposals are not being supported and understood everywhere. It is for this very reason that they are not being forced on anyone but presuppose the states' agreement in calmly, skillfully, and effectively resolving those problems impossible to resolve alone.

The most burning problem, which is causing particular alarm in the world community, is connected with the CIS states discharging in accordance with international treaties the USSR's obligations in the area of reducing both nuclear and conventional arms.

There is progress in the area of conventional arms. This May the Tashkent Agreement "On the Principles and Procedure for Implementing the Treaty on Conventional Forces in Europe" was concluded, in accordance with which each CIS state has quotas for maximum levels of conventional weapons and equipment.

The problem of reducing nuclear weapons is being resolved. It is in this very area that the Commonwealth

states' leaders showed most consideration and responsibility. As a result, tactical nuclear weapons were withdrawn from the territory of all the states and concentrated in Russian storage bases in May of this year.

As regards strategic nuclear weapons, they are deployed and will continue to be deployed for some time yet [yeshche nekotoroye vremya] on the territories of four states—Russia (80 percent), Ukraine (10 percent), Kazakhstan (6 percent), and Belarus (4 percent). They are under a single control and command. All states except Russia (in accordance with the agreement), have confirmed their status as nonnuclear powers and have acceded to the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty. At the same time, it is my view that the longer they are situated on the four states' territories, the more complex it will be to carry out both the ratification and implementation of this document and the Treaty on Strategic Offensive Arms. Strategic nuclear weapons should have their own "statehood" not only in the future but already in the present, despite the fact they are situated on the territories of various Commonwealth states. In accordance with all the documents which have been adopted, this "statehood" should be Russian.

At the present time the High Command is doing everything to bring the positions of the Commonwealth states as close as possible to one another in this important question. The Belarusian and Russian positions are closest of all and accord with the demands of the adopted agreements. Kazakhstan's point of view is drawing near to this joint position. Ukraine occupies a somewhat different position. There are now intensive negotiations in progress on coordinating and bringing closer together all the points of view.

One of the important constituents of collective security in the CIS is the maintenance of peace and stability within the Commonwealth. To this end, the heads of the states signed an agreement on groups of military observers and collective forces for maintaining peace in the CIS, as well as a number of protocols defining their status, a procedure for manpower acquisition, and for the provision and use of materials and equipment.

The most important tenet of these documents is that the groups of observers and the collective peacemaking forces will be multinational. This cuts out speculation around the Russian, Slavic, or, on the other hand, Turkic factor in the peacemaking process and permits them to carry out the tasks before them more effectively.

In this way, taking the obvious contradictions that exist in the Commonwealth into account, there is a pressing need for a more considered, serious, and coordinated approach to resolving questions of organizational development in defense. In this very area, albeit a fragile but very important trend has been taking shape recently, which I would call a trend toward integration, as it designates a move away from disunification to unification, to consolidation, and a joint search for effective ways of guaranteeing military security. I am sure that a constructive approach to these problems will make it possible to ensure peace and stability in the Commonwealth of Independent States, Europe, and throughout the world, and will serve the interests of all countries' national and collective security.

Rumors of Joint Command for Black Sea Fleet

LD2909141192 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0900 GMT 29 Sep 92

[Text] We have just received a report from NEGA, quoting reliable sources, according to which a joint command of the Black Sea Fleet will be formed this week. The sources claim that Admiral Igor Kasatonov will not be appointed commander because Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk is categorically opposed to his candidacy. According to NEGA, Kasatonov will continue to serve in Moscow, in the Russian Defense Ministry.

When the NEGA correspondent contacted the press centers of the Black Sea Fleet and the Ukrainian Navy, they neither denied nor confirmed this information.

Interparliamentary Assembly Approves Documents

Appeal to International Organizations

PM2909135192 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 19 Sep 92 First Edition p 2

["Appeal to International Parliamentary Organizations" signed by R. Khasbulatoc, chairman of the CIS Interparliamentary Assembly Council, and adopted in Bishkek on 15 September]

[Text] The Interparliamentary Assembly of CIS states, meeting at its first plenary session in Bishkek (Republic of Kyrgyzstan) on 15-16 September 1992,

aware of its responsibility for maintaining and strengthening peace, preventing and settling interstate and interethnic conflicts, promoting the ideas of democracy and parliamentarianism, guaranteeing human rights and civic freedoms, and resolving the Commonwealth states' economic, social, and ecological problems,

advocating a bigger role for national parliaments and international parliamentary organizations in strengthening mutual understanding between the peoples of different countries,

demonstrating a desire to assist the international community's efforts to strengthen peace and international security, including actively promoting the implementation of the attainment of the goals of the UN Charter,

expressing its willingness to join in parliamentary dialogue at the international level in order to coordinate joint efforts to develop democratic processes and in the quest for coordinated legislative solutions of global political, economic, social, and ecological problems,

stating its intention to contribute to the development of international cooperation in the cultural and humanitarian spheres,

presents to international parliamentary organizations a proposal on establishing and developing broad interparliamentary cooperation and uniting the efforts of the world's parliamentarians in resolving topical issues of world development.

The CIS states' Interparliamentary Assembly hopes that its desire to participate in the democratic development of the world community will meet with understanding and support.

[Signed] R. Khasbulatov, chairman of the Assembly Council

Adopted in the city of Bishkek, Republic of Kyrgyzstan, 15 September 1992

Communique From First Session

PM2909134992 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 19 Sep 92 First Edition p 2

["Communique on First Plenary Session of CIS States' Interparliamentary Assembly"]

[Text] The first plenary session of the CIS states' Interparliamentary Assembly took place in Bishkek on 15-16 September 1992.

The assembly session was attended by delegations from: Republic of Belarus, headed by V.I. Sholodonov, deputy chairman of the Supreme Soviet; Republic of Kazakhstan, headed by S.A. Abdildin, chairman of the Supreme Soviet; Republic of Kyrgyzstan, headed by M.Sh. Sherimkulov, chairman of the Supreme Soviet; Russian Federation, headed by R.I. Khasbulatov, chairman of the Supreme Soviet; Republic of Tajikistan, headed by A. Iskandarov, chairman of the Supreme Soviet.

A.A. Saakyan, first deputy chairman of the Republic of Armenia Supreme Council, attended, representing the Armenian Supreme Soviet.

A parliamentary delegation from the Republic of Azerbaijan headed by V.K. Kasymov, chairman of the National Assembly Commission for Refugees and Relations With Compatriots, attended the plenary session as observers.

The Interparliamentary Assembly participants were welcomed by A.A. Akayev, president of the Republic of Kyrgyzstan.

The Interparliamentary Assembly adopted the standing orders. A mechanism for interparliamentary cooperation was formed on the basis of the principles of representative parity and agreement among the participants.

The Interparliamentary Assembly working bodies were formed. An Assembly Council was set up and R.I. Khasbulatov, chairman of the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet, was unanimously elected its chairman. It was decided to form Interparliamentary Assembly commissions on legal matters, economy and finance, social policy and human rights, environmental problems, and security matters. It was decided that the Interparliamentary Assembly will be located in St. Petersburg.

The Interparliamentary Assembly adopted a statement on the social proteciton of citizens, approved the basic guidelines for aligning national legislation, deemed it expedient to embark on the elaboration of recommendatory legislative documents, approved the provisional statute on an interparliamentary reference and information service, and made a proposal to international parliamentary organizations on establishing and developing extensive cooperation.

Concerned about the situation in Tajikistan and Abkhazia, the Interparliamentary Assembly adopted special appeals expressing confidence that their peoples, with their inherent wisdom, will find the strength to resolve any problems entirely by peaceful means.

The Interparliamentary Assembly plenary session took place in a spirit of constructiveness and mutual understanding.

The communique was signed by the leaders of the parliamentary delegations from Armenia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, the Russian Federation, and Tajikistan.

Appeal for Cease-Fire in Abkhazia

PM2909134792 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 19 Sep 92 First Edition p 2

["Interparliamentary Assembly Appeal to CIS Peoples, Parliaments, and Member States"]

[Text] The Interparliamentary Assembly notes that as a result of the 3 September Moscow meeting involving the president of the Russian Federation, the chairman of the Republic of Georgia State Council, the chairman of the Abkhaz Supreme Soviet, and leaders of North Caucasus republics, krays, and oblasts, an accord was reached on a cease-fire and the cessation of the use of any kind of force by one side against another in Abkhazia. This laid the basis for a peaceful settlement of the conflict in Abkhazia and for peace and mutual understanding throughout the North Caucasus. The peoples sighed with relief and hope.

It is worrying and sad to see that blood is still being shed there and people, including civilians, are being killed. Citizens from other republics are victims, as well as local people. The fires of war in this region threaten to spread to neighboring states.

Regarding the protection of human rights as a priority, the Interparliamentary Assembly is appealing to the peoples, parliaments, and governments of the Commonwealth states to do everything in their power to get the warring sides in Abkhazia to cease firing immediately and withdraw military units from cities and population centers to their permanent stations.

The assembly appeals to the local authorities to ensure a peaceful life and safety for citizens and guarantee unimpeded passage for people and freight.

The Interparliamentary Assembly also appals to the CIS states to organize urgent humanitarian aid for the population of Abkhazia and other victims of these events.

Abkhazia must return to a state of peace and well-being. It is the duty of all CIS countries to bring this about.

The appeal is signed by the leaders of the parliamentary delegations from Armenia, Kazakhstan, the Russian Federation, Belarus, Kyrgyzstan, and Tajikistan.

Agricultural Developments for 20-22 Sep

LD2709041892

[Editorial Report] The following is a compilation of reports on agricultural developments monitored from CIS and Baltic sources from 20-22 September.

RUSSIA:

1. According to data from the Russian Government's operational headquarters, the yield of this year's grain crops is nearly four quintals per hectare higher than last year. A total of 16.4 million tonnes of grain has been supplied to the state's resources. According to the instructions of the government, state supplies should reach a total of 29.1 million tonnes. Krasnodar Kray, for example, is supposed to supply 2.87 million tonnes but has sold only 1.70 million tonnes. The situation is no better in many other areas. [Text—Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1000 GMT 20 Sep 92—from the "Vesti" newscast]

2. Livestock rearing has gained a reliable feed base; for the first time Tatarstan has grown corn for grain. Tatarstan President Mintimer Shaymiyev made this statement today. With the help of the U.S. firm Pioneer and American technology, republic farmers have sowed corn over 20,000 hectares and are cultivating a crop of at least 50 quintals of grain per hectare. [Text—Moscow Programma Radio Odin Network in Russian 1100 GMT 20 Sep 92]

3. Harvesting of sugar beets in the Altay has begun in poor autumn weather. It is raining almost every day for the second straight month. Many of the fields are not accessible with machinery, so beets are even being dug up by hand. The Altay has grown a good crop of sugar beets this year, and specialists estimate that it will be possible to bring in at least 800,000 tonnes for refining. This is the highest total in recent years. The key point now is to manage without losing anything due to the bad weather. [Text—Moscow Programma Radio Odin Network in Russian 1100 GMT 20 Sep 92]

4. There are reports today that the harvest in Novosibirsk Oblast is in a critical situation, with only 50,000 tonnes of grain having been brought in. This is a tenth of what is needed for the winter. On 21 September the town administration asked residents to actively participate in the harvest. Otherwise the town is facing a hungry winter. [Text—Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1100 GMT 22 Sep 92—from the "Novosti" newscast]

ITAR-TASS Carries Press Review for 30 Sep

LD3009063492 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0609 GMT 30 Sep 92

["Press Review"—ITAR-TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow September 30 ITAR-TASS—According to today's newspapers, another hotbed of tension, Kabardino-Balkaria, appeared on the territory of the new commonwealth. Protest actions against the arrest by the Russian public prosecutor's office of Musa Shaymiyev, president of the Confederation of Highland Nations of the Caucasus, have been going on for several days in Nalchik, the administrative centre of that North Caucasian Autonomous Republic. According to NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA, participants in the actions demand the withdrawal of Russian troops from Kabardino-Balkaria and the calling to account of the republic's officials whom they blame for the heightening of tension in the region. KRASNAYA ZVEZDA stresses that "the situation may get out of control completely for one more reason: More and more people who returned home after rendering 'voluntary armed assistance' to Abkhazia are taking part in the actions." PRAVDA writes that "talks were started between the government of the republic and leaders of the Congress of Cabardinian people. They are advancing with much difficulty. The sides have not reached agreement so far."

Tajikistan has been plunged into a civil war, NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA writes, commenting on the developments in that former Soviet Central Asian republic, which is being torn apart by communal and regional contradictions. In fact, Tajikistan as a single state does not exist any longer, the newspaper continues. Only 20 per cent of its territory is being controlled by the coalition government. The opposition in Tajikistan followed the example of the Georgian opposition and assaulted the presidential palace, but this did not bring long-awaited peace to the republic. The precedent of violence triggered a chain reaction: The losers began to use the same methods as the winners, the newspaper stresses.

Commenting on the debate in the Russian parliament over privatization, PRAVDA carries a statement of the Civil Society Parliamentary Group, which says that it "opposes most emphatically the privatization plan put forward by the president and the government." According to the statement, the plan runs counter to the laws adopted by the parliament and leads to the robbing of the people, instead of giving property to them.

"The trend towards using force in settling international problems is beginning to get the second wind," Marshal Yevgeniy Shaposhnikov, commander-in-chief of the CIS Armed Forces, believes. His views of the national and collective security in the CIS are set forth in his article, published by KRASNAYA ZVEZDA.

In his opinion, this is connected, in the first place, with "the attempts of the leading Western country to transform a two-polar world into a monopoly military-strategic area." Explaining this idea, Shaposhnikov stressed that the desire is obvious now to create a new alliance in the south on the basis of the Islamic factor, including the Central Asian CIS member states. "As a result of it, a new axis of global confrontation, this time between the North and the South, may emerge," Shaposhnikov pointed out. He believes a collective security system of the new Commonwealth may

become a counterbalance to it. "If joint efforts are not taken right now with the aim to achieve military-political integration in the CIS, a further development of the situation in the Commonwealth, taking into account the different potentials of its member states, may promote the transition to the military-political situation in the CIS, which will develop under the impact of numerous factors," Shaposhnikov wrote.

Gaydar on Baltics Sanctions, Cabinet Changes

OW2909174592 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1646 GMT 29 Sep 92

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The board of the Russian government did not discuss on Tuesday [29 September] the issue of sanctions against the Baltic states, which according to acting Prime Minister Yegor Gaydar in a statement to INTERFAX, is "a decision to be made either tomorrow or the day after tomorrow." At the same time, he pointed out that Russia will pursue its policy with respect to this region "given the solution of the problem on human rights in these states".

Speaking on possible changes in the government, Gaydar said that "various changes in the cabinet are certainly quite possible." We plan to implement a number of changes which will strengthen our ability to achieve economic reform, including the rearrangement of branch ministries, Gaydar added. He expressed his conviction that "these changes will not undermine our capability to implement economic reforms".

When speaking about the aim of his visit to Baku and Yerevan, Gaydar said that the Russian government is working out several draft agreements defining expectations for long-term relations with the republics of the former USSR. According to Gaydar, the first agreements to be prepared are those on trade with Azerbaijan and Armenia. As a result, he said, a decision was made to sign these agreements and to discuss issues on development of economic and political relations with these two countries.

When asked about his visit to Kiev scheduled for Thursday [1 October], Gaydar said that Russia and Ukraine "had been conducting negotiations on stabilizing relations in the monetary sphere" due to the forthcoming introduction of a national currency by Ukraine. "If these negotiations are completed in the next two days," the acting premier noted, "then on Thursday I shall fly to Kiev on the invitation of the Ukrainian government to sign the appropriate documents".

Gaydar reported that "Russia cannot pass any resolutions without considering the bank debts of the two countries," including the mutual debts of enterprises. "And this is impossible", Gaydar emphasized. He expressed his hope that Russia could "possibly reach mutual understanding with the Ukrainian side on this issue".

Foreign Ministry Spokesman Views UN Meeting

LD2909173592 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1639 GMT 29 Sep 92

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent Sergeiy Nikishov]

[Text] Moscow September 29 TASS—Director of the Russian Foreign Ministry's Information and Press Department Sergey Yastrzhembskiy described the meeting of foreign ministers from the five permanent members of the U.N. security council with U.N. Secretary-General Butrus-Ghali held on September 25 as "a useful mechanism for joining efforts in the name of more efficient U.N. actions".

The Russian Foreign Ministry spokesman told today's briefing the meeting participants exchanged opinion on the situation in various tension and conflict zones and on the U.N. peace-making efforts. They focused on the situation in Yugoslavia, Iraq, South Africa, Somalia, Mozambique, Angola, the Middle East and specific areas of the Commonwealth.

The sides agreed, in particular, efforts taken by the U.N. secretary-general to settle conflicts in Moldova, Georgia and Nagorno-Karabakh will be continued by sending goodwill missions to the conflict zones and establishing facts. The meeting expressed grave concern over the situation in Tajikistan.

A joint document taken on the meeting results "reflects further rapprochement of the five states in the estimation of acute situations that have shaped up in some regions and ways to overcome them with joint efforts under the U.N. aegis," said Sergey Yastrzhembskiy.

The Russian foreign ministry spokesman clarified the issue of Yugoslav participation in work of the United Nations and the Russian stand on the issue.

He told the briefing some Russian mass media "creates distorted impression of the U.N. security council's and the general assembly's decisions as regards Yugoslavia." Authors of some reports "create an impression Yugoslavia has been excluded from the United Nations Organization." In fact, the U.N. decisions provide for Yugoslavia's application for the U.N. membership, same as other republics of former Yugoslavia have done, and for its current inability to participate in the work of the U.N. General Assembly and its committees.

The Yugoslav mission to the United Nations is still functioning, issuing documents and representing Yugoslavia in all U.N. bodies, but the General Assembly. The Yugoslav flag remains on the U.N. flagstaff and the Yugoslavia plate remains on tables in conference halls.

At the same time, said Sergey Yastrzhembskiy, proposals on barring Yugoslavia from participation in other international organizations, in particular, the idea, the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) and the ICAO [International Civil Aviation Organization], have recently been put forward.

Such actions "violate the achieved 'general understanding' under which the formula of Yugoslav non-participation cannot be automatically used in other international organizations. We are against these attempts," said Sergey Yastrzhembskiy.

Responds to Sweden's Submarine Accusations

OW2909201192 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1930 GMT 29 Sep 92

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] "A regular attack of the periscope syndrome" is how representative of the Russian Foreign Affairs Ministry Sergey Yastrzhembskiy characterized the full scale search

campaign in Switzerland [as received] for foreign submarines. While he recognized the indisputable right of any state to guard its territorial waters, the diplomat expressed his perplexity concerning the published statements of the Swedish prime minister on the alleged signs of Russian characteristics of the violating submarines.

At a briefing Tuesday [29 September] Yastrzhembskiy noted that the statements carry a frankly unfriendly character. He declared that "Russian submarines, aside from one unintentional incident in 1981, have not violated and are not violating Swedish territorial waters." Yastrzhembskiy feels that before Sweden came forward with such accusations, it should have openly presented realistic evidence. The group of Russian and Swedish experts in this field established on Stockholm's initiative could have examined the evidence.

Views Mongolia Withdrawal, Cyprus, Kurils

OW3009013992 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1548 GMT 29 Sep 92

[Report by diplomatic correspondents Andrey Borodin, Igor Porshnev, and others; from "Diplomatic Panorama"—following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Russia has completed the withdrawal of its forces from Mongolia, according to a briefing given in Moscow on 29 September by Sergey Yastrzhembskiy, the director of the Department of Information of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation. He said that negotiations were now being conducted regarding the fate of military installations and property left behind in Mongolia.

Referring to prospects for the solution of the problems in Cyprus, Yastrzhembskiy said that the leadership of the so-called "Turkish Republic of North Cyprus" was now maneuvering with the goal of attaining some measure of international recognition. It thus makes sense to pay close attention to the trip to the north of Cyprus by general Dzhokhar Dudayev.

According to Yastrzhembskiy, these efforts have no basis in international law, and present a challenge to the international community. He emphasized that the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs did not recognize any territorial or political entity on the island of Cyprus other than the Republic of Cyprus itself.

Also appearing at the briefing, Nikolay Solovyev, the director of the East Asian Division of the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, said that the departments of foreign policy of Russia and Japan had issued a collection of documents on the historical background of the problems of territorial demarcation. He expressed regret that the documents did not include a record of a post-war appearance by one of the high-ranking officials of the Japanese foreign ministry at which the Japanese diplomat specified the territorial limits of the Kuril islands.

Gaydar Signs Sakhalin Oil, Gas Development Accord

LD2909182292 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1219 GMT 28 Sep 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Ivan Ivanov]

[Text] Moscow September 28 TASS—Acting Prime Minister Yegor Gaydar signed last Saturday [26 September] a decision on an international tender to develop oil and gas deposits and to conduct oil prospecting on Sakhalin and the surrounding shelf.

The document points to the need to observe the interests of Russia and the Sakahlin region during the tender and to provide deliveries of natural gas, oil and condensate to meet the requirements of the Salkhalin region, the Khabarovsk and maritime territories, taking into account the hard currency recoupment of projects to be sent for tender.

The document also contains an instruction "to envisage the utmost use of the Russian industrial potential, local labour, materials and services in requirements to foreign participants in the tender."

Gaydar instructed appropriate Russian ministries and departments to submit for the government's approval within a two-week period areas of the shelf offered for tender as well as regulations on the tender commission and its composition.

Shokhin Views Economic Cooperation With Japan

LD2909182492 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1520 GMT 29 Sep 92

[Text] As is known, from 19 to 26 September a Russian delegation took part in the annual session of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank. The results of this session were the subject of a news conference held today by Russian Government Deputy Chairman Aleksandr Shokhin. Olga Vasilenko reports on the news conference.

[Vasilenko] It was noted, first of all, that this is the first time that Russia has participated in this forum as a full member, but the visit of the Russian delegation began with a meeting together with the finance ministers of the Group of Seven. They discussed what realistic possibilities Russia had of servicing its foreign debt, whether a mechanism of responsibility would operate with regard to the CIS countries or whether some new form should be worked out. Aleksandr Shokhin said that a whole cycle of consultations and bilateral meetings is to be held on this matter. The main task is to have a forecast of Russia's balance of payments ready by the next meeting of the Paris Club on 19 October. This is essential to prepare large-scale agreements with the IMF.

The deputy chairman told those present at the news conference about Russia's credits for rehabilitation, the oil industry, and privatization. In Shokhin's opinion, however, our economic problems will be solved not by credits, but by attracting direct foreign investment.

On the whole, Shokhin assessed the results of the visit as fruitful and successful. Although we did not bring back

with us a large package of signed documents, he said, the ground has been prepared for signing them in the future.

Most questions at the news conference were about the economic situation in Russia. Replying to one, Shokhin noted in particular that in September the Russian Government intended to forbid any expenditures not supported by revenue, something which has been occurring until now. There was, naturally, a question about relations with Japan, that is, about the president's postponed visit to that country. Let us listen to Shokhin's reply to that question.

[Begin Shokhin recording] I must note with satisfaction that in spite of the postponement of the Russian president's official visit to Japan, our economic cooperation is developing rather successfully if one particularly bears in mind credit cooperation. We intended to sign various agreements within the framework of the visit, particularly one on a credit of $100 million for medicines and foodstuffs which has been under discussion for two years, but which—for a number of reasons, including political ones—had not gotten off the ground. We were to sign an agreement on an $800 million credit for the development of the gas industry. These credit agreements have been completed. Minister Aven signed the agreement on the $100 million credit yesterday. An agreement on an oil industry credit of 700 million—also in dollars—is to be ready in October. So, in essence, the approach the Russian side advocated before the visit—that there should be no strict linkage between economic cooperation and the resolution of political and territorial questions—now is being implemented, and in my view, this is advantageous to both the Japanese and the Russian sides because favorable ground is being created for resolving all other questions. [end recording]

Meets Britain's Trade, Industry Secretary

LD2909130192 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1000 GMT 29 Sep 92

[Text] Aleksandr Shokhin, vice premier of Russia, today met Michael Heseltine, Great Britain's secretary of state for trade and industry. The British minister is in Moscow to take part in the work of the first session of the Russian-British Trade and Investment Council. At the meeting, the work of the council and bilateral economic ties relating to the planned November visit to Britain by Russian Federation President Boris Yeltsin were discussed.

Holds News Conference With Gerashchenko

PM2909135992 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 25 Sep 92 Morning Edition p 5

[Report by Aleksandr Shalnev report: "Fall in Ruble Rate Has Not Frightened IMF, Viktor Gerashchenko Maintained in Washington"]

[Text] Washington—Neither the Russian Central Bank nor the IMF sees anything dramatic in the latest steep fall in the ruble exchange rate observed at the last auction in the interbank exchange, Central Bank Chairman Viktor Gerashchenko declared at a news conference in Washington on 23 September.

He said that this fall was only to be expected, taking into account the increase in the prices of energy sources and the fact that, as he put it, "in the trade network of the alternative economy the prices of all goods at once increased 25 to 30 percent." Viktor Gerashchenko said that the IMF leadership and he are unanimous that "the Central Bank's intervention in the currency exchanges must not be excessive" and that the ruble must be given more opportunities to determine its own rate for itself.

I asked the bank chairman for his reaction to the criticism leveled at himself and at his organization on the very first day of work of the present session of the Russian parliament. After remarking that it is better to answer criticism being aired in Moscow not in Washington but in Moscow, V. Gerashchenko emphasized: "I share the government's economic, budgetary, and financial policy and believe that sufficient firmness must be shown in this. The only question is: what degree of firmness? The chief thing is not to stifle the patient."

Russia's chief banker recalled that during the first eight months of this year, on the initiative of the Central Bank itself, credits worth a total of 80 billion rubles were granted to commercial banks and that all other credits were agreed at government level. Vice Premier Aleksandr Shokhin, who also participated in the news conference, did not duck this dig at the government but, on the contrary, admitted: "The government and parliament are to blame, together with the Central Bank, for the weakening of credit discipline."

The news conference produced some not particularly good news: It became clear that the talks which our delegation is now having in the lobbies of the IMF and the World Bank on the question of deferring the repayment of our debts have not yet produced any results. To judge from Shokhin's statements, it cannot be ruled out that the solution will not be found in time for the next session of the Paris Club scheduled for the middle of October. The main problems impeding the adoption of decisions include the incomplete nature of calculations of the Russian balance of payments for 1993 and the persisting serious lack of clarity over how the debts of the former Union are distributed among the CIS countries.

It was reported that Russia will hardly be able to rely on obtaining from the IMF before the end of the fall the further $3 billion agreed for it. On the other hand, it was confirmed that we have not yet taken up the $1 billion already allocated to us, although we can, if we so wish, take it up at any moment. The reason? This $1 billion can only be used to replenish our currency reserves, and for no other purpose, but, having taken it up and placed it in our accounts, we will have to start paying the IMF 7.5 percent annual interest, while receiving just 3 to 5 percent as a result of keeping it in our accounts. In other words, the losses will amount to $20 million to $40 million a year because of this difference. So it will be better if this $1 billion remains with the IMF at present.

Journalists asked about the degree to which Russia has been forced to abide by the fund's prescriptions. Shumeyko gave a witty reply: "The music is the fund's, but the arrangement and orchestration are Russian."

Aven Says Debt Repayment To Be Rescheduled

OW2909183892 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1736 GMT 29 Sep 92

[Report prepared by Andrey Pershin, Andrey Petrovskiy, and Vladimir Shishlin; edited by Boris Grishchenko; from "Presidential Bulletin"—following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Russia will seek agreement with the Western creditor-states on the deferment of its foreign debt repayment, Russia's Minister of Foreign Economic Relations Petr Aven told IF [INTERFAX] shortly after his return to Moscow from Washington where he had talks with the IMF and the Paris Club. The conclusion of the agreement is delayed because the IMF and Russia cannot come to terms on prospects for Russia's balance of payments in 1993. The minister said that such an agreement may be reached by October 10 after which Russia will send its official proposals to the Paris Club.

IN 1993 RUSSIA WILL NOT BE ABLE TO PAY MORE THAN 3 BILLION DOLLARS TO ITS FOREIGN CREDITORS

In Washington Russia presented its own evaluation of the payment balance. Petr Aven said that over the past four years the falling oil prices have caused Russia to lose almost 15 billion dollars. The budget deficit has gone down from 20 per cent (1991) to 5 per cent. He said that next year the volume of hard currency revenues is expected to amount to 36-37 billion dollars. He said therefore that Russia will spend 2.5 - 3 billion dollars on servicing its foreign debt. According to his sources, the Paris Club will ask Russia to repay around 5 billion dollars to it.

Petr Aven confirmed that Russia proposed reviewing the memorandum on the shared repayment of the former Union's debt. Russia intends to re-draw the documents in such a way as to become the sole representative of the debtors and monitor of the debt. He also said that a corresponding agreement has been reached with all of the CIS states except Ukraine. With Ukraine Russia will conclude a separate agreement according to which Ukraine's debt to the West (16.34 per cent of the entire sum) will get integrated with Russia's debt. However, Russia will observe its commitments to Ukraine concerning the latter's part in the former Union's assets.

Aven also said that the Paris Club is likely to hold a separate conference on the former Union's debt, presumably in the middle of October. Pending this, the members of the Paris Club agreed not to demand the repayment of the debt from Russia in view of the fact that on September 30 the term of the three-month deferment expires.

Russia will continue consultations on the debt, however, above all with its main creditor, Germany, whose position "is decisive" during the talks with the Paris Club. Aven said that if Russia's proposals on the restructuring of its foreign debt are accepted, Germany will lose about 1 billion dollars next year.

RUSSIA ENCOURAGES OTHER COUNTRIES TO REPAY DEBTS OUTSTANDING

India will soon recommence payment of its $15bn. [billion] debt to Russia. India has always been on time with its debts to Russia in the past, according to P. Aven. However, he explained, this year it had suspended repayments due to disagreements between the two nations concerning the calculation of the value of the rupee and the ruble to the dollar. India has attempted to adapt its debt repayments with the change in exchange rate for the ruble and the dollar (from 0.6 rubles to the dollar two years ago to 248 rubles today). In Aven's opinion, this attempt has no justification, since India's debt was incurred in U.S. dollars only (for arms supplies, which are always made in hard currency).

Similar debt repayment negotiations have been taking place between Russia and Poland and Tanzania. The minister said that the negotiations with Poland had been "very difficult". Poland owes Russia $1.5 bn. and owes, besides this, convertible ruble debts in dollars (incurred when COMECON was in existence). It is likely that these problems will be finally resolved when parliamentary leader Y. Gaydar makes his visit to Warsaw at the beginning of October.

Interfax information: Interfax has been informed by a reliable source that Gaydar's visit to Poland will commence on October 2nd. Gaydar will stop over in Kiev en route to the Polish capital.

Aven also stated that the Russian government is also currently negotiating debt transfer with other countries. An agreement to transfer the debt owed to Russia by Zambia via a Swiss company has been signed, and this process will continue, mainly with African countries, on debts outstanding to Russia. Aven pointed out that these debts were not large ones. The minister said that debts from other countries to Russia are currently being quoted at 6-6.5% on the secondary market, and debts outstanding from Cuba have fallen to 3%. The quotation for the debt currently owed by Russia to western banks is approximately 21% on the secondary market.

UK Offers $490 Million in Insurance Guarantees

OW3009003092 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1955 GMT 29 Sep 92

[From the 30 September "Business Report"—following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Great Britain has agreed to grant state insurance guarantees for new credits to Russia worth a total of 280 mn [million] pounds sterling (about $490 mn) at the same time that Moscow stated its readiness to discuss the possibility to paying off some of its debts to British companies by giving them property on Russian territory. This agreement was determined in the Declaration on bilateral cooperation signed Tuesday [29 September] in

Moscow by British State Secretary of Trade and Industry Michael Heseltine and Russian Minister for Foreign Economic Relations Petr Aven.

After negotiations with the British minister, Aven told Interfax that Russia was ready to grant property "worth several millions of dollars," but he did not name any specific property which could be offered to Great Britain.

Heseltine proposed several large investment projects to Russia for the oil and gas extracting and chemical industries. Aven told Interfax that during negotiations, plans to create a modern chemical factory in Urengoe (Western Siberia) were considered along with plans to renovate Domodedovo airport (Moscow) and to develop telecommunications.

The final signing of bilateral agreements is expected to take place during a visit by Russian President Boris Yeltsin to London in mid-November.

Russia, UK To Draft Projects Before Yeltsin's Visit

LD3009100992 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1854 GMT 29 Sep 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Din Inamov and Yevgeniy Kleshkov]

[Text] Moscow September 29 TASS—The Russian and British sides will prepare a host of specific economic projects, under which British credits will eventually be issued, by the time Russian President Boris Yeltsin visits Britain.

This agreement was reached during a meeting between Russian Economic Minister Andrey Nechayev and a delegation of the heads of major British companies led by Michael Heseltine, a member of parliament and secretary of state for trade and industry, held in Moscow today.

The British delegation arrived in Moscow to define priorities in cooperation between the two countries for the near term. On the agenda of the talks are the discussion of prospects for setting up a Russian-British committee for economic cooperation and its operation, and the use of credits that Britain intends to extend to Russia.

In Nechayev's view, the priority areas of Russian-British cooperation are the oil and gas industry, the production and processing of food products, transport and telecommunications, and the conversion of defence factories. The two countries also plan to forge partnerships in creating the market infrastructure, specifically in forming the banking system.

The British delegation raised the issue of paying off Russian enterprises' commercial debt for deliveries already made, which runs into some 100 million pounds. Heseltine said the British side understands that this problem cannot be solved speedily and sees all the difficulties besetting the Russian economy. Therefore, he said it would be expedient to draft at least a scheme for repaying this debt.

"From the point of view of economic cooperation and attracting potential investors, Russia needs first and foremost to pay off commercial debts. However, the Paris Club, in whose competence bank debt issues are, abides by the different point of view. It insists that it is state debts that need to be repaid in the first place," Nechayev observed.

Kozyrev Attacks Rights Violations in Baltics

PM3009103192 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 24 Sep 92 Morning Edition p 4

[Report by Aleksandr Shalnev: "A. Kozyrev Criticizes Human Rights Violations in Estonia and Latvia From the UN Rostrum"]

[Text] Washington—"Despite its economic difficulties, Russia will pay out $130 million to partly clear its debt to the United Nations and another $30 million to other organizations before March 1993." This was announced by Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev in his speech Tuesday to the UN General Assembly session.

This was perhaps the only real piece of news in a speech that, unlike the UN speeches by Kozyrev's predecessors, the foreign ministers of the former Union, contained none of the initiatives that used to be thought of as historic. It was a purely working speech and, moreover, it was comparatively short by UN standards.

As part of the session's work, as if in passing, an idea was expressed that in my view should stand at the top of the agenda and be carefully and thoroughly explained—the idea that the United Nations could play a key role in guaranteeing the rights and freedoms of national minorities in certain countries of the former Union. Judging by Kozyrev's remarks, it is proposed that the United Nations, acting fully in accordance with its charter, could establish guardianship over national minorities.

The idea is a very important one, and it therefore seems strange that it was ostensibly left hanging in the air; it was not fleshed out or developed in the Russian foreign minister's speech.

Having noted that Russia "is particularly concerned by the discriminatory policy sanctioned in a number of new states, specifically Estonia and Latvia," and that the situation in the Republic of Estonia, where 42 percent of the population has been barred from participation in elections, certainly does not fit in with the framework of international law, Kozyrev stated: "We are raising and will continue to raise these questions at the United Nations and other forums. We also have the right to do this because the said countries acquired their independence thanks in large part to the victory scored by democrats in Russia."

But why not submit these questions for discussion in the Security Council and demand the use of sanctions specified by the charter in respect of regimes and countries that violate the rights and freedoms of their citizens?

One last thing: We cannot help but approve of Russia's readiness to dismiss the portion of its debt to the United Nations which is connected, specifically, with financing

operations and missions which were extremely inefficient and unjustifiably expensive. But we cannot help noticing something else: The United States, the biggest debtor, is in no hurry to clear its debts. There was no mention of this in the speech which President Bush delivered to the General Assembly. On the other hand it did contain the sort of initiatives which, if implemented, would benefit both the United Nations and the United States. For example, the granting of U.S. bases to UN peacekeeping forces for training purposes, bases which would otherwise have to be closed down. Why do we not go the same way, offering the United Nations our bases and thereby at least lessening somewhat the social consequences of reductions in the Russian Armed Forces and weapons cuts?

Envoy Views Troop Withdrawal Talks With Latvia

PM2909085992 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 25 Sep 92 Morning Edition p 5

[Report by Irina Litvinova: "Latvia and Russia Harden Their Positions at Talks"]

[Text] Riga—The latest round of Russian-Latvian talks (held in Jurmala) did, as always, proceed correctly but did not bring satisfaction to either side. Both delegations took rigid positions and did not make concessions.

The members of the government delegations and experts discussed economic, military, and humanitarian questions. If it had been possible to reach accords in principle on them, this would have brought nearer the signing of an entire package of agreements on specific problems. A report that the documents on the timing of the Russian troop withdrawal from Lithuania signed 8 September will evidently be annulled as not meeting Russia's interests—a report which appeared in the Latvian press on the second day of the delegation's work—was unexpected. The report did not add to the optimism of the Latvian side, which had intended to follow an equally speedy course on the troop withdrawal and named 1993 as the last year for the presence of Russian troops on its territory.

Border questions are also in an impasse. Russia submitted a draft interstate agreement on the border, which coincides with the border that separated the RSFSR and the Latvian Soviet Socialist Republic. Latvia confirmed its former position in a parliamentary resolution adopted on the eve of the talks: Proceeding from the peace treaty with Russia of 11 August 1920, it designates its own territory and its borders. Thus, Pskov Oblast's present Pytalovskiy Rayon must once again become the Abrene district, as recorded on new maps of the Republic of Latvia which have already been produced.

After the end of the talks Sergey Zotov, leader of the Russian delegation and ambassador at large, told IZVESTIYA's correspondent:

As is well known, in August Russia advanced initiatives which consisted in reducing the troop withdrawal time by five years—from the previously mentioned 1999 to 1994. In our view, this provided an opportunity for a breakthrough in the talks process. We had expected a responding step from the Latvian side.

Unfortunately, the Latvian side is not ready to travel its part of the path in search of compromises. What is more, Latvia has complained to the United Nations and asked for the question of the Russian troop withdrawal to be placed on the agenda of the General Assembly session. There is a noticeable desire to internationalize the problem of the Russian troop withdrawal. If this question really is included on the session agenda, the Russian side will have a moral right to suspend the talks, for our state finds it unacceptable to hold them under conditions of international pressure when discussing a strictly bilateral question.

Says Latvia Needs to Focus Position

OW2809123792 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1129 GMT 28 Sep 92

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] It hardly makes sense to have another meeting between Russian and Latvian state delegations before mid-October, according to Ambassador Sergey Zotov, the head of the Russian delegation. In an interview with BALTFAX, he noted that "the Latvian delegation, being unprepared to examine constructively Russia's suggestions, and having pulled out of talks this past March, that is, six months ago, should use the remaining time to determine its position and be ready to conduct a constructive dialogue." The ambassador recalled that at the time of the bilateral talks held in Jurmala on 22-24 September, "regardless of the concessions made by the Russian side regarding the timetable for withdrawing its forces, and the suggestion to move the deadline up by five years (from 1999 to 1994), which was part of a Russian initiative proposed on 6 August, the Latvian delegation not only avoided studying the proposal, but in fact avoided discussing it at all." Mr. Zotov also said that the Russian side cannot fail to take into consideration that until now, no clear notification has been received regarding the rejection of border claims involving Russian lands; and that no indication has been made of Latvia's readiness to conduct negotiations on the drawing of boundaries based on a Latvian plan for an inter- governmental agreement.

The Russian diplomat said that in order to prepare for the next meeting, a longer hiatus would be needed than was proposed by the Latvians; he also emphasized that the most important thing was to have more discussion of all the issues with the goal of finding mutually acceptable solutions, rather than again becoming fixated on existing disagreements.

The Latvian delegation had proposed holding another round of talks next week in Moscow.

Customs Border Checkpoints To Open 1 Oct

OW2909174992 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1648 GMT 29 Sep 92

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] INTERFAX has been informed by the Russian State Customs Committee that all 64 customs check-points will be in operation as of October 1 on Russian borders

with the Baltic States, Ukraine, Azerbaijan and Georgia. According to experts, this will be enough to halt the illegal transport of raw materials and oil products from Russia. The illegal trafficking amounts to millions of tons a year.

A united customs zone will remain among 8 CIS republics: Russia, Kazakhstan, Moldova, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, Turkmenistan, Tajikistan and Belarus, all of which signed a customs policy agreement in March of this year.

Official Sees Nuclear Threat if Democracy Fails

OW3009102192 Tokyo KYODO in English 0959 GMT 30 Sep 92

[Text] Moscow, Sept. 30 KYODO—Russian Deputy Prime Minister Mikhail Poltoranin told Asian news agency executives Wednesday [30 September] the world would face a real nuclear threat if Russia's transformation to democracy failed.

Speaking at the opening of the 13th executive board meeting of the Organization of Asia-Pacific News Agencies (OANA), Poltoranin, who is also minister of press and information, said Russia's move from communism to democracy is irreversible.

"Democracy has survived and gained momentum," he said in explaining the efforts Russians have made since last year when the Soviet Union collapsed.

But he said there are still many "revenge seekers," and "if we failed, the world would face a real nuclear threat."

"We hope we will be supported and helped by our neighbors."

Poltoranin said Russian journalists proved to be loyal as reporters of truth in their role of reporting events that have taken place since last year.

He said the Russians are committed to the free flow of information.

The two-day OANA meeting got under way at the head office of the host ITAR-TASS NEWS AGENCY Wednesday.

Representatives from news agencies of China, India, Indonesia, Iran, Japan, South Korea, Malaysia, Pakistan, Vietnam, and Russia are taking part in the meeting.

KYODO NEWS SERVICE of Japan is the current president of OANA.

Russia, Italy Ready to Restore Military Ties

LD2809214792 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 2058 GMT 28 Sep 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Andrey Naryshkin]

[Text] Moscow September 28 TASS—Chief of the Russian General Staff Viktor Dubynin and his Italian counterpart Domenico Corcione met in Moscow on Monday [28 September] to discuss prospects for military cooperation between the two countries.

Dubynin and Corcione said the time has come to restore military contacts between Russia and Italy which were severed during the cold war.

In an interview with ITAR-TASS, Dubynin stressed that no document signing had been planned for today's meeting. The Italian delegation is obviously "probing the nature of our intentions, including the Russian Defence Ministry's readiness for cooperation. I believe we are ready for such cooperation," Dubynin said.

Corcione, who is in Moscow at the invitation of the chief of the Russian general staff, will visit an air-defence unit near Moscow, an airborne division in Tula, the city of Severomorsk and St. Petersburg. The visit will last until October 3.

New Russian Ambassador to Switzerland Appointed

PM2909115392 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 23 Sep 92 First Edition p 1

[Unattributed report under the general headline "Chronicle"]

[Text] By a decree of the Russian Federation president A.I. Stepanov has been appointed ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of the Russian Federation to the Swiss Confederation.

By a decree of the Russian Federation president, Z.G. Novozhilova has been relieved of her duties as ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of the Russian Federation to the Swiss Confederation in connection with her transfer to other work.

Government Collegium Discusses Tatarstan, Estonia

LD2909151192 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1401 GMT 29 Sep 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Ivan Ivanov]

[Text] Moscow September 29 TASS—A regular meeting of the Russian Government board was held in the Kremlin today under the chairmanship of Russian President Boris Yeltsin.

The first item on the meeting agenda was the progress of Russian-Tatarstan negotiations, head of the governmental press center Gennadiy Shipitko told ITAR-TASS upon the meeting completion. "It was stated the negotiations have not been a success so far, since the sides' approaches differ," he said.

The Russian stand is to proceed in its relations with Tatarstan from the current juridical norms, primarily the constitution of the Russian Federation, and from the fact Tatarstan is part of Russia.

As for Tatarstan, it seeks to consider itself completely independent from the Russian Federation in the legal aspect, and wants the Russian Federation to apply all norms of the international law as regards Tatarstan. It also strives to receive the right to form its own military policy.

The leadership of Tatarstan wants to recognize only citizenship of Tatarstan on their territory, and is against the second—Russian citizenship.

The meeting agreed "on the need to continue an intensive dialogue with the Tatarstan leadership with due account of interests of both sides, and expressed the hope mutually acceptable solutions will be found," said Shipitko.

"The issue of a new structure of the Russian Government was suddenly raised at the meeting," said the governmental press center head. "Nevertheless, the board decided to consider it today".

Shipitko stressed "no changes are envisaged as regards the government high ranking officials, it is the matter of reorganization of several ministries."

He said it is planned to reduce the number of central executive bodies from the current 131 to 73, and the number of ministries and state committees equalled to ministries will be decreased from 36 to 30.

"In particular, it is planned to abolish the Ministry of Industry and create on its basis a State Committee on Industry to include five structural subdivisions".

The board has also analysed human rights in Estonia. "It was recognized Russian relations with Estonia shall be based on the 1991 bilateral treaty on fundamentals of mutual relations, which primarily envisage the principle of good neighborly relations", he noted.

"Board members said Russia considers it necessary to keep up to a firm stand in its relations with Estonia, the stand to protect the principles of the treaty and interests of ethnic Russians living on Estonian territory.

"This does not mean, however, Russia thinks it has the right to interfere in internal Estonian affairs, still the Estonian leadership must know and take into account this Russian stand," Shipitko said.

Asked about possible economic sanctions against Estonia, Shipitko confirmed this issue was raised at the meeting. "It was stressed the sanctions are not excluded, but they will not harm the population," he said. In addition, in the words of the press center head, it was stated "Russia preserves the right to appeal to international instances so that to solve the issue of human rights observation in Estonia in a legal and democratic way".

Today's meeting has also considered the course of privatization of state enterprises.

Yeltsin Urges Rapprochement With Tatarstan

OW3009015992 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1925 GMT 29 Sep 92

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Russian president Boris Yeltsin, speaking at a Tuesday [29 September] meeting of the board of the Russian Government, indicated the necessity of continuing efforts toward a rapprochement between the positions of the delegations of the Russian Federation and Tatarstan; the delegations are participating in the preparation of a treaty on questions of jurisdiction between Russia and Tatarstan, which is part of the Russian Federation. Vyacheslav Kostikov, the president's spokesman, said that the president, while analyzing the course of negotiations, had emphasized that the agreement should reflect the complexity of the current situation and should not neglect the country's objective need for social and economic integration. Yeltsin said that it was extremely important that the population of Tatarstan should have full and objective information about the consequences to which the breaking of traditional ties with Russia might lead.

Tatar president Mintimer Shaymiyev, appearing at Tuesday's session of the republic's parliament in Kazan, expressed his belief that the agreement, incorporating "the constructive approach of both sides, may be signed by the end of 1992." In the estimation of Shaymiyev, the existing draft of the treaty "clearly" strengthens the jurisdiction of Tatarstan and the spheres of joint management, and thus to a sufficient extent "reflects the interests of the Russian Federation."

Minister Titkin Opposes Government Restructuring

OW2909233292 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1423 GMT 29 Sep 92

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Shortly, Boris Yeltsin will pass a decree on adjusting the structure of the government to the new stage in the economic reform, the president's press secretary announced.

On Tuesday [29 September], Boris Yeltsin chaired a meeting of the government's collegium during which

Acting Premier Yegor Gaydar spoke about the reorganization of the central executive bodies.

Head of the president's press service Vyacheslav Kostikov said that there are plans to cut the number of central executive bodies from 131 to 73. The number of ministries and state committees is to be reduced from 36 to 30. Among the ministries which have been found redundant is the Ministry of Industry which will be replaced by a state committee for industrial policies.

Highlighting Boris Yeltsin's position, the press secretary said that the new scheme is based on the idea of economic decentralization with the state's role preserved in the economic branches which ensure Russia's stability and national security, and provide the population with social guarantees.

According to well-informed sources, Russia's Minister of Industry Aleksandr Titkin has a special attitude to this document. He believes, for instance, that all spheres of the government's activity, with the exception of industry, will undergo only minor changes. He therefore expressed surprize about the fact that "the authors of the decree" have disregarded the recommendation of the state commissions led by Gaydar and Shokhin, to preserve the ministry of industry.

The minister believes that "yet another reorganization at the end of the year will undermine preparations for the year 1993. The staff will put their work aside and plunge into dividing the buildings, cars and posts, and, having seated themselves comfortably in their new chairs, will start accusing their predecessors and reorganization of all their troubles in 1993." Aleksandr Titkin is convinced that the draft decree must not be signed to prevent further economic destabilization.

Commander on Deployment of Troops to Caucasus

LD3009134592 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1234 GMT 30 Sep 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vladimir Gondusov]

[Text] Moscow, 30 Sep—"The dispatch of additional forces of the Russian Ministry of Internal Affairs troops to the North Caucasus was prompted by the Russian president's concern with the complex crime situation in the region, and in particular, with the rise of crimes in which weapons are used," Colonel-General Vasiliy Savvin, commander of the Russian Internal Troops, said today in a conversation with an ITAR-TASS correspondent.

The personnel of the troops, he said, together with the law enforcement workers is implementing measures aimed at confiscating weapons, inspecting transport, and ensuring that the civilian population is safe. For example, the commander cited the following figures: 108 units of firearms, over 100 grenades, and several thousand pieces of ammunition were confiscated in September. Over 1,500 people were detained for various violations of law and order.

The local residents hope that the situation will stabilize following the introduction of the troops, but the general said that the attitude toward servicemen in Nalchik, where participants of the rally demanded that internal troops be withdrawn from Kabardino-Balkariya, causes concern. A number of servicemen were wounded and injured as a result of provocations. The situation in the republican capital remains complicated, the commander noted.

Yeltsin Keeps Right To Use Troops in Emergency

LD3009133192 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1315 GMT 30 Sep 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vladimir Gondusov]

[Text] Moscow September 30 TASS—The Russian president retained the right to use interior troops in areas where state of emergency has been proclaimed, according to amendments to the law on interior troops adopted by the parliament of late. The interior minister has the right to use the troops only in strictly limited cases which are not defined as a state of emergency, TASS was told by commander of the Russian interior troops Vasiliy Savvin on Wednesday [30 September]. He did not elaborate.

The amendments were introduced by President Boris Yeltsin when he returned the already adopted law back to parliament. Lawmakers also agreed to grant the president the right to submit for parliamentary approval his proposals on the composition and strength of interior troops, Savvin added.

The president sent additional interior troops to the northern Caucasus as he is concerned over growing crime with the use of weapons in the region, Savvin said. The troops are to help police confiscate illegal arms and provide for security of the citizens. 108 weapons, over 100 grenades and several thousand rounds of ammunition were confiscated in September. Over 1,500 people were detained for illegal arms, he added.

The commander said he is concerned over the situation in Nalchik in Kabardino-Balkaria where several interior troops were wounded and injured.

MVD General Explains Internal Troops Law

OW3009062592 Moscow Central Television First Program and Orbita Networks in Russian 1945 GMT 28 Sep 92

[Interview with Major General Anatoliy Aleksandrovich Chaykovskiy, chief of the Internal Troops Directorate of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, by Sergey Lomakin; from the "Utro" program—live]

[Text] [Lomakin] Our program carries the traditional Operatsiya television program prepared by the Russian MVD [Ministry of Internal Affairs] Public Relations Center. To reinforce this program, we invited a guest to our program, Anatoliy Aleksandrovich Chaykovskiy, chief of the Russian MVD Internal Troops Directorate. We have not invited you by chance, Anatoliy Aleksandrovich, because I feel the Internal Troops are presently the most combat-ready part of the entire Russian Army. Am I wrong?

[Chaykovskiy] No, you are not wrong; the task is so difficult that we simply have no right to be unprepared at this time. We must live up to the trust of the people and of all those who expect that things will be set in order in our country.

[Lomakin] There is another reason, Anatoliy Aleksandrovich. I believe the Supreme Soviet adopted the Law on Internal Troops on 25 September. The law would have been quite acceptable, but as it turns out, although it looks smooth on paper, they forgot the pitfalls. There is a point in the law that I would like you to explain in greater detail, why certain contradictions arise.

[Chaykovskiy] The fact is that point number seven of the adopted edition of the law envisages the duplicate subordination of the troops. You all know quite well that duplicate subordination never leads to order. I think that, as a result, when this law is is operating or during its implementation, the Supreme Soviet will have to return to it and either supplement it or amend it so it will be possible to implement it fully in practice.

[Lomakin] In other words, the Internal Troops are subordinate to both the central authorities and the local authorities?

[Chaykovskiy] Yes.

[Lomakin] If the central authorities announce a state of emergency in some region and the local authorities say: No, we have no need for an emergency situation, what are the Internal Troops supposed to do?

[Chaykovskiy] This should not happen. The Internal Troops fulfill the orders and edicts of the government and of the president, are guided by the law on Internal Troops and other legal acts, and will fulfill everything in strict accordance with the law. However, this kind of contradiction must be resolved first and foremost by the politicians, both locally and in the central government—whether a state of emergency should be introduced, whether it is premature to announce it, or when it should be lifted. This is their right. We implement the directives and edicts of the president and government.

[Lomakin] There is another very important issue that I think presently is of great concern primarily to parents. President Yeltsin has signed the edict on the call-up for active military service, which will begin very soon. Naturally, many youths will join the Internal Troops. I think that many parents would surely like to know this; after all, these youths will find themselves in hot spots and under fire. Let us be frank and call things by their proper names. So how are you solving this issue? Some of them will certainly try to avoid this.

[Chaykovskiy] We have two problems here. The first problem concerns the draft in general. We did not recruit a sufficient number of personnel in spring. I believe that the General Staff is making a serious mistake by trying to recruit insufficient numbers for us this fall. This entails very serious consequences, including the frustrations of tasks facing the Internal Troops. So it is essential to urgently correct this matter and provide the troops with at least 90 percent of the required recruits.

That is the first problem. The second problem—you are quite correct—is that an 18-year-old boy who picks up a weapon is not immediately ready for action; he must be trained. Therefore, we usually send people to hot spots or combat posts only after preliminary training, which takes three-four months or even six months. This is not the most important thing. All of us, from the commander down to a lieutenant, are convinced that service in the Internal Troops must be stipulated by a contract. It should be a professional service.

[Lomakin] You mean they should be mature people?

[Chaykovskiy] Yes, mature, capable people who understand the difficulty of the tasks and are capable of fulfilling them. Besides, as an interim measure, we approached the government ourselves with a proposal to fill the more responsible sections and difficult positions with servicemen on extended service until such a time as the corresponding documents on contract service are drawn up. The Law on Internal Troops envisages recruitment of troops both through a draft and via contracts.

[Lomakin] Do you, the Internal Troops, consider yourselves to be hostages to politicians' policies that are often not very wise, if I may put it that way, or too farsighted?

[Chaykovskiy] I am a soldier, first of all, and I am accustomed to obeying orders and directives from the legal authorities. We act strictly within the framework of the law, the framework of the existing and established laws of the government. Thus, we are fulfilling government directives and orders. As to being hostages, we are not hostages; on the contrary, we free hostages.

[Lomakin] What first-hand information do you have about what is happening in Nalchik; the information that we are receiving is extremely contradictory.

[Chaykovskiy] The information is contradictory because the situation there is very complicated. We will have an opportunity in a week's time—maybe a week or two—to show all television viewers our films of these events. As a Chinese proverb states, I think that it is better to see it once than to hear it a hundred times.

[Lomakin] Thank you, Anatoliy Aleksandrovich. Our guest was Gen. Anatoliy Aleksandrovich Chaykovskiy, chief of the Internal Troops Directorate, and we spoke about the situation regarding the Internal Troops and what they do. Of course, we could not say too much because we do not have that much time, but let us hope that in a week we really will see what is happening in Nalchik through the eyes of cameramen....

[Chaykovskiy, interrupting] Professional Internal Troops cameramen.

[Lomakin] Yes, from the Internal Troops. Thank you.

Border Troops Discuss Decree on Frontier

OW2909151592 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1117 GMT 29 Sep 92

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] A conference of the Russian Border Troops Command in Moscow on September 28 discussed action on the RF [Russian Federation] President Yeltsin's decree "On measures to organize the protection of Russia's custom frontier." As the Russian Border Troops' press-center has announced with reference to the meeting, border troops are being pulled out from the Baltic countries and from Nakhichevan, an autonomy [word as received] in Azerbaijan, and Russian border servicemen are settling down at new frontiers in accordance with plan. There is evidence to expect the withdrawal from Nakhichevan to be fully completed by September 30th and the pullback from the Baltic states to be accomplished within October.

Lieutenant-General Vladimir Shlyakhtin, in charge of Russia's Border Forces, remarked at the conference that "there was nothing more important for servicemen than to reliably safeguard the border and to strengthen discipline, law, and order in Army units."

Yeltsin Offers Privileges to Reenlisting Sailors

LD2909164292 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1530 GMT 29 Sep 92

[Text] Russian President Boris Yeltsin has issued a decree on introducing additional privileges to sailors and petty officers in the Russian Navy, as well as in marine units of the Russian border troops, for reenlisting in military service. After the first year of service they are to be granted a 30-day leave; in the periods between carrying out their military training missions they will be entitled to daily shore leave or leave from their unit area; several other privileges are also detailed.

Navy Denies Attempt To Sell Reserve Command Site

OW2909201292 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1930 GMT 29 Sep 92

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The press service of the Russian Navy refuted information broadcast by the Russian mass media stating that Igor Kasatonov, the commander of the Black Sea Fleet, allegedly offered to sell one of the fleet's reserve command sites to an interested party. According to the press center, "to put it mildly, this information is untrue; the Black Sea Fleet has not sold any reserve command point to anybody".

Russian Republics Back Parliament, Khasbulatov

MK2909142092 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 29 Sep 92 p 3

[Radik Batyrshin report under "Russian Federation" rubric: "Fourth Force in Russian Politics. Ex-Autonomies Support Khasbulatov"]

[Text] A statement by leaders of Russian Federation republics was made public on 28 September:

"Recently, particularly following the Sixth Congress of Russian Federation People's Deputies, the supreme organs of state power in Russia have been subjected to constant criticism in the mass media. The work of the congress and the Supreme Soviet is assessed extremely harshly and negatively. Russian Federation Supreme Soviet Chairman R.I. Khasbulatov is being subjected to the most crude attacks.

"While regarding freedom of the press a most important condition of society's democratic development, and not wishing to restrict criticism in any way whatsoever, we are obliged to state that the deliberate, targeted inflaming by certain of the mass media of the situation concerning the activity of the supreme organs of state power in Russia have nothing in common with the principles of democracy and glasnost and serve the far-reaching goals of definite political circles and forces. Moreover, in our opinion this propaganda clamor is needed by them in order to divert the attention of people and the public away from the urgent problems of our development and destabilize the peace and tranquillity existing in society.

"We deem it necessary to state that the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet, as the supreme organ of legislative power, guarantees that necessary balance of forces which is essential to society in the interrelationship of the legislative, executive, and judicial powers. We are convinced that the observance of the prevailing separation of powers is a most important condition of the preservation of Russia as an integral state. Despite a number of omissions and shortcomings in their work, both the Congress of People's Deputies and the Supreme Soviet of the Russian Federation have made their positive contribution to Russia's renewal and demonstrate the ability to resolve major tasks of fateful significance for Russia. The role both of the Supreme Soviet and the president of the Russian Federation in preparing and signing the Federation Treaty, which has become a reliable legal basis for the renewal of Russia, has been particularly great.

"Today it is clear that a considerable section of the Russian Federation's people's deputies occupies a position of constructive collaboration with the government. In these circumstances, in our profound conviction, attempts to bring the legislative and executive authorities into conflict can bring Russia nothing but harm. In the contemporary circumstances only the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet and its leadership, as equally the president of Russia, represent guarantees of the stability of the reforming of political and economic relationships in the Russian Federation."

The statement is signed by the leaders of the republics of Adygea, Altay, Bashkortostan, Buryatia, Dagestan, Kalmykia (Khalm Tanch), the Karachay-Cherkessia SSR [Soviet Socialist Republic], Karelia, the Mordvinia SSR, the Republic of Sakha (Yakutia), Tuva, Udmurtia, Khakasia, and Chuvashia. At the time of publication the attitude

toward the statement of Kabardino-Balkaria and North Ossetia had not been determined.

So, a new player has emerged in the political championship of Russia. And each of the sides of the president-government-parliament triangle will have to heed the interests of this player. Just what compelled the leaders of the ex-autonomies to stand up for Khasbulatov? It is obvious that an advantage in favor of one particular side cannot generate delight among the politicians of the periphery, who are perfectly well aware that in the wake of a defeat for one of the sides the victor will set about taking them in hand. And all those rights that are hypothetically granted to the republics by the Federation Treaty will evaporate in connection with the latest exacerbation of the situation. In addition, weakened from its clashes with the government, the leadership of the Russian parliament has begun to make increasing overtures toward the ex-autonomies—at least the most powerful of them, Tatarstan and Bashkortostan. It was Khasbulatov himself who was the initiator of the repeal in respect of the first republic of the ill-received Russian Federation Supreme Soviet resolution of 17 July, while senior secretary of the Constitutional Commission Oleg Rumyantsev praised Ufa for the new "Bashkir model of the federation." In addition, the majority of the leaders of the ex-autonomies nurture no great sympathies for the Federal Government if only for the fact that they are having to resolve all their problems either through the president or through parliament. At the same time, the pragmatic desire of the republics to defend themselves together with the Russian parliament conceals yet another aim—exerting an influence on "big-time politics."

And this desire is manifesting itself increasingly: the North Caucasus demarche regarding the events in Abkhazia; the statement by Tatarstan, Bashkortostan, and the Republic of Sakha; the meeting of the leaders of the first two republics with Nazarbayev, and so forth. A fourth force whose influence is growing as the leaders of the ex-autonomies consolidate their positions is intervening ever more decisively in the big-league game of the three giants—president, parliament, and government. And if these leaders are not taken into consideration, this fourth player may muddle the cards of all the other three.

Chubays: Government Economic Course Correct Path

LD2909203192 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1703 GMT 28 Sep 92

[By ITAR-TASS parliamentary correspondent Galina Vinitskaya]

[Text] Moscow September 28 TASS—"The government has chosen the right and the only possible course of reforms," Russian Vice-Prime Minister Anatoliy Chubays said on Monday [28 September], summing up the results of parliamentary debates on the pace of economic reforms in Russia.

Chubays said the fact that prices, primarily retail ones, have been decreasing since the beginning of the year proves the correctness of the chosen path.

The debates were initiated by the parliamentary committee for economic reforms. Acting Russian Prime Minister Yegor Gaydar is expected to address the parliament on October 7 with a report on ways to radicalise reforms.

Sergey Vasilyev, head of the group working out the programme, said the document has been discussed at a meeting with trade union leaders. In addition, it has received extensive coverage in the media. He said his team has received ten alternative programmes developed by various research and economic institutes, including the institute of economics and the institute of economic forecasting. Vasilyev's group plans to hold a discussion on alternative programmes on october 10-11.

Gaydar on Economy, Supreme Soviet, Government

MK2909181592 Moscow KURANTY in Russian 29 Sep 92 pp 4-5

[Interview with Acting Government Chairman Yegor Gaydar by Aleksandr Nadzharov in Moscow; date not given: "Fifteen-Hour Working Day for the Revival of Russia"]

[Text] The whole world knows this man. He is hated and idolized, copiously cited and blamed for all the sins of the postsocialist society. Returning from parliament, where he responded to the opposition's attacks with rare dignity and a self-control that even irritated his friends, he continued his 15-hour workday for the revival of Russia.

Virtually most of the day is devoted to finding meager scraps of currency for children's medicines, trying to avert unemployment, and forcing money through the hardened arteries of our country's financial circulation for pensions for old people in the Urals.

And yet Russia's acting Government Chairman Yegor Gaydar found the time to meet with your KURANTY observer and answer readers' questions. So, here we are at half past seven at night in the Staraya Ploshchad [Old Square], fifth floor, Ye. Gaydar's office.

[Nadzharov] KURANTY has always supported the democratic reform policy—albeit sometimes critically. It has been pleasant to see their real positive results. It is worth comparing the situation as regards commodities today with last year's situation, particularly at the end of the fall and the beginning of winter. There was everything on the counters—all you needed was the money. But in the past few weeks, prices have soared and there have been fewer goods. What is going on? Have the reforms ground to a halt? Has the government shown its weakness?

[Gaydar] There are many reasons for this, and I think we will be talking about them during our entire conversation. But for the moment I would say that we know what we need to do to straighten things out—we need to tighten credit and monetary policy, that is, essentially do what needs to be done to make goods available. You don't need any revolutions to do this, you just need to slightly tighten up the tap of monetary emissions which had once again started dripping.

[Nadzharov] A few days ago the Central Bank announced that the government owes it 1.25 trillion rubles....

[Gaydar] This is no news either to me or to them. Furthermore I can say that the bank issued excessive technical credits to enterprises on a large scale. And the CIS countries took a great deal of this. Essentially, this is the same as the emissions—that is, printing money that is not guaranteed by anything. But in this case it is pointless to look for a culprit. Half of the responsibility for the relaxation of the monetary policy lies with the bank, and half with the government; we have also made quite a lot of retreats and compromises, and we somewhat overestimated our freedom of movement.

[Nadzharov] But is it up to the bank to protect industry by giving it multibillion credits? After all, it has its own champions. We expect something else from the bank. But what does the government expect from it?

[Gaydar] One thing—to be most concerned of all about price stability. At the same time, I would also like to note that I rate Viktor Gerashchenko's professional qualities very highly. He really is our best banker. It is a question of mutual understanding.

[Nadzharov] Let us move away from prices and inflation for a moment and touch on an equally sensitive problem, whose key is also to be found in mutual understanding. Your relationship with the Supreme Soviet. Can reform be carried out with such a parliament?

[Gaydar] It is the easiest thing to say that it is impossible to do anything. But I believe that there are some healthy forces and sensible people in the present parliament. There are also some who are honestly deluded, and you can explain the essence of their delusion to them. I want to be able to rely on them. Of course there are also those who pursue their own selfish ends and deliberately delude the people in their speeches. But I do not want to get involved in pettiness. Let us get back to the main subject.

[Nadzharov] But I would like to ask you something else about the session. You have never stooped to cutting short even the basest attacks on your person. Is this the scorn of a member of the intelligentsia for bus-stop wrangles? Although it encourages the deputies who behave like hooligans.

[Gaydar] I value my own time and other people's time too highly. And let the electorate judge the level of those who revile me.

[Nadzharov] Judging by public opinion polls, your rating is slowly but surely rising. And yet life does not seem easier. What are the reasons for this?

[Gaydar] I think that people have understood that the reforms are just. Yes, that is exactly the word. The burden lies on everyone's shoulders in exactly the same way. The consumer has been hit by prices, the producer is being oppressed by taxes, and state officials are receiving little remuneration and have been deprived of practically all their former privileges. It is hard for everyone at this difficult hour. But if we analyze the past 75 years we will see that there have always been groups who have lived in clover. They indeed are the main enemies of the reforms. And the privatization option we have chosen is the people's privatization—the same for everyone.

[Nadzharov] Incidentally, a deputy's superstition [deputatskoye navazhdeniye] is frankly haunting me. You know that a group of deputies has refused to take privatization checks?

[Gaydar] That is their right. But we will scarcely see the multimillion-strong masses of the working people behind this small company of objectors. On the contrary, everyone is very actively discussing the question of what to invest these vouchers in, and not how to reject them.

[Nadzharov] And what are you going to spend your personal privatization check on?

[Gaydar] What I am going to do with my own voucher is a more difficult question. Under the existing Decree on Combating Corruption, I cannot be involved in entrepreneurial activity, which includes buying shares. The only thing I can do is to frame it and wait for the parliament to establish what counts as commercial activity with respect to privatization through vouchers. After all, you cannot discriminate against millions of state employees.

[Nadzharov] Incidentally, about the highest-ranking state employees. I have in mind the directors' lobby in the Supreme Soviet. Are the directors of state enterprises a support for the country?

[Gaydar] Some of our directors are making very active use of the opportunities that have opened up, and they have started working in a different way. They are immediately establishing relations with the West, seeking out and finding contracts for the sale of their output, developing new output, and finding substantial—albeit less technological [tekhnologichnyy]—niches in the Western market.

[Nadzharov] I wonder if you know of a single director who would refuse to privatize his enterprise?

[Gaydar] Somehow I have not heard of such a case so far. And it is not just that there is not a stream of such appeals. Not once has a director of a major enterprise asked to be excluded from the privatization lists.

[Nadzharov] Does that mean that the directors are your mainstay?

[Gaydar] By no means all of them. There is also another type of director—those directors who are incapable of adapting to the new conditions, who are either incapable of working, or who have not yet learned how to work. Many of them are very used to the 100-percent state order, to "red zone" supplies [snabzheniye "po krasnoy polose"], and so on. Some directors even have hysterics when they meet difficulties and the nasty government does not immediately hurry to eliminate them. This is the second type of director. The first is, unfortunately, less in evidence, because he does his business, values time, and does not get involved in petty intrigues. There is also a third type. Those who want to catch a goldfish in the murky waters of the transitional period: They try and obtain petroleum,

timber, and fish for a pittance in rubles, and then put the difference into a foreign bank in their own name. We have started fighting this type and we do not intend to stop.

[Nadzharov] Arkadiy Volskiy, chairman of the Union of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs, is considered to be the leader of the directors' movement. And he frequently says that, unlike strike committees, he does not need two weeks to prepare a strike. He and a group of comrades only need half an hour to bring Russia's plants to a halt. Do you believe he has real power in this respect?

[Gaydar] First of all, according to my information, the rumors of Arkadiy Ivanovich's mighty influence on the directors are to some extent exaggerated. At least, by no means all directors have such a high opinion of him that they would concertedly stand submissively waiting for him to deign to give the relevant orders. Second, I would advise Arkadiy Ivanovich to pay attention to the fact that questions of power are supposed to be resolved in a civilized way in this country: There is a president and a parliament. Ultimately you can call for new elections, but to try to impose something on democratic organs of power by means of coercion and blackmail is very irresponsible, to my mind, and it is usual for people to have to answer for it.

[Nadzharov] Such dangerous political games undoubtedly do not arise out of thin air. People are frightened by price rises that were unimaginable even a couple of years ago. Can specific figures now be named for average earnings in the next few months, or the price of gasoline, for example?

[Gaydar] The world price for a tonne of petroleum is now approximately $120. In our country, including the value-added tax, of course, it is something within the region of 5,000, or $20-25 accordingly, which is 15-20 percent of the world price. The task facing us is to emerge onto the world level so that petroleum is not exported from Russia for cheap resale in the West. But we must do this by adapting ourselves to our own capabilities and increasing the individual's income.

[Nadzharov] So how much will we get in our hands?

[Gaydar] A great deal will depend on how the rates of inflation turn out, what prices will be like in this connection, and what the situation in the social sphere will be. I for one believe that the task we have set ourselves for December concerning the rates of inflation—not to exceed the level of 5 percent a month—is completely realistic. At the same time we can see that the September explosion was very violent. This happened after the increase in grain and fuel prices. But we will be able to slow this process down in November and December and prevent any further escalation. And we must not think that we are in such a unique situation. Despite all the difficulties, what has recently been happening in our country can be placed fairly easily within the framework of existing economic theory, and we have an idea of how economic systems operate in this situation.

[Nadzharov] Surely the situation in which you recently found yourself at a Supreme Soviet session when answering deputies' questions was envisaged? One of them demanded that the head of government report on the delivery of potatoes to his local plant.

[Gaydar] Yes, it was envisaged. Both the real legacy and the prevailing traditions [I realnoye naslediye, i slozhivshiyesya traditsii].

[Nadzharov] Kosygin personally distributed tractors around the ministries....

[Gaydar] Yes, when I came here I immediately said to my colleagues that we would not divide combines because there would not be a division problem, there would be a different problem—a sales problem [problema realizatsii]. At that time this seemed very strange. But now you can see for yourself.

[Nadzharov] To what extent does politics influence the adoption of decisions by the government?

[Gaydar] Very considerably. I would say that the most serious example is the constant mounting pressure on the government aimed at planning monetary policy in a specific way. This pressure has come from practically every side. I have in mind the idea—which has for some reason become widespread and almost a symbol of faith—that all we need for our industry to survive happily in the face of the burgeoning market is to give it a few billion worth of extra credits and happiness will be inevitable.

[Nadzharov] But that is what you did.

[Gaydar] And we did the wrong thing. Because as a result of enforced retreats in the past few months we have come up against a significant malfunction in the implementation of the reforms. This, without any doubt, is the result of political pressure and political compromises. But what can be done? Life in a democratic society does not allow the government to isolate itself. You can oppose something, you can maneuver, you can try to form your own coalitions of forces, you can try to change the resultant force, but what you cannot do is simply close your eyes to reality.

[Nadzharov] Tell me, Yegor Timurovich, do you sometimes have to promise something while knowing in advance that nothing will come of it?

[Gaydar] Never. Never before and never in the future. Some people are trying to accuse me of promising not to raise fuel prices before the end of the year. I did not make such a promise. The government merely affirmed that it would not release these prices. And they have not been released. On the contrary, their sharper increase is being restrained by a whole system of measures. Now the main thing. We promised support to those who live on a fixed wage. And a decision was recently adopted on a fundamental raise in their income as of January.

[Nadzharov] Is the money for this going to come from taxes? But people the world over try to avoid paying taxes. What proportion of taxes is successfully gathered?

[Gaydar] In the first half of the year it was around 32 percent of the national product. Our new tax system is starting to work much better.

[Nadzharov] And where is the borderline between the situation whereby taxes stifle the development of entrepreneurship and, conversely, promote it's development?

[Gaydar] There really is such a borderline—the budget. Even today there is no doubt that our taxes are not stifling. We are bearing in mind the fact that the revenue from taxes decreases as the tax rates increase. But the limits of their reduction are also known—this is state expenditure. Which we have managed to do. State purchases of weapons, where great resources would traditionally go, have been reduced by 60 percent, subsidies into the gross output sector of the national product have been sharply reduced, and so on. Furthermore, all in all nothing perished in the country and the predicted disaster did not occur. It is simply that there are specific limits, and the government cannot miraculously make a very big, very state-based economy as light as a feather. But if this cannot be done immediately, then unfortunately, one way or another, it is financed through taxation.

[Nadzharov] Is there unity on this viewpoint among the other government members? Incidentally, what is the limit to which it can be diluted, so to speak, by traditional skilled practical workers and production workers?

[Gaydar] There is unity, but I can say quite honestly that at present a government composed of people with different experience, different ideas, and different mind-sets seems natural to me in terms of many issues. That is, for instance, the purism of our first period was essentially a display of weakness rather than a display of strength. The November-April period was characterized precisely by the fact that a great many people considered us to be a kamikaze government. After all, at the end of last year there was no one who wanted to head the government. Shadow cabinets are now being formed all over the place. This means that the situation has stabilized. Now things look different. We now have far greater possibilities for maneuver, and the president has far greater possibilities for creating a government reflecting the present tasks to a considerable extent, and indeed the real disposition of sociopolitical forces, of course. That is, for all that there is broadly speaking nothing forced here. And that is why there is no tension today either.

[Nadzharov] How resolutely would you say the president is protecting his government?

[Gaydar] Frankly, given the situation in which the government is working, the level of support that Boris Nikolayevich is providing us with is exactly as we would desire.

[Nadzharov] Meanwhile, the state of the finances is evoking alarm even at a household level. It would seem that an ordinary person would not care about the dollar rate. He might never have held a dollar in his hands in his life. Yet here we are worrying and suffering.

[Gaydar] This is quite right. Rumors that the currency market and currency exchanges reflect nothing are clearly out of date. Unfortunately the dynamics of retail prices, many of which are already objectively geared to world prices today, depend greatly on the exchange rate. That means that if the currency rate leaps, then the level of prices also leaps. If the level of prices leaps, then inflationary pressure on the entire economy is intensified. And again there is an additional impulse toward a higher rate. Therefore in general the dynamics of the ruble rate are one of the most important parameters in the escalation of inflation.

[Nadzharov] What do you imagine the ruble rate to be as of 1 January?

[Gaydar] I hesitate to commit myself. There are a great many attendant circumstances. In any case, it will not be particularly low if we manage to prevent the expansion of the large volume of money in circulation. The first task here is to stabilize the situation.

[Nadzharov] And what is the situation concerning Western credits?

[Gaydar] As far as credits are concerned, well, broadly speaking, we may have even more credits than we need. If, however, we are talking about things that are fundamentally important to us, then this means decisions on debts. The temporary deferment arrangement that was elaborated for the Soviet Union's debts has been exhausted. Now we have a different situation and the country's geography is different. We need agreements that will really be carried out. At the moment we are holding intensive talks on this problem with our partners in the West. We are achieving something.

[Nadzharov] As we know, the Bank for Foreign Economic Activity [Vneshekonombank] has frozen deposits, and foreign firms are not receiving money for goods that have long since been supplied.

[Gaydar] It will not start paying out money until the state settles the most urgent payments—on grain, for example. Admittedly, the following proposal is still possible here: The Central Bank went to the Supreme Soviet with a proposal to issue Vneshekonombank currency bonds. There, admittedly, they decided that it is best not to get involved in this question, and it seems that they intend to hand it back to the government. Well, we are prepared to resolve the problem that has arisen together, and fairly fast. Ultimately, currency state bonds are essentially still that same money.

[Nadzharov] So, the leader of the government is in a pretty optimistic frame of mind. What gives you hope for a better future?

[Gaydar] Speaking grandly, I believe that we are not the most stupid people in this world, and if the Russians are given the chance to work normally.... Yes, given our resources, qualifications, skill, and so on, they will undoubtedly quickly put the country back on its feet. I am deeply convinced that we need only grant more freedom, untie hands, and give people the possibility to flex their muscles a little and adapt to the new situation—that is all. This alone will be sufficient—not just to get out of the crisis but also to achieve great economic success.

[Nadzharov] I agree. But after all, the whole question depends on timing. When will all this happen?

[Gaydar] I would not be surprised if economic growth was restored as of the second half of next year.

Shokhin on Future of IMF Credit Loans

OW2909174792 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1647 GMT 29 Sep 92

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Russia can count on the next $3 bn. [billion] installment of International Monetary Fund credit loans of the end of 1992, according to Vice-Premier of the Russian Government Aleksandr Shokhin, who was speaking at a Moscow press conference on Tuesday [29 September]. The first one billion dollar credit loan was granted in August, 1992.

Shokhin said that the credit had been granted in accordance with the forthcoming signature of a large scale agreement with the IMF which would make provisos concerning the course of economic reform in Russia.

The question of the foreign debt of the USSR was also discussed at the annual meeting of the IMF in Washington from which Shokhin has recently returned. Russia proposed the re-scheduling of the Russian part of the debt and the transfer of the whole foreign debt of the USSR to Russia. Shokhin said that the Western financial world understood the resons for the proposal, and he stressed that in any case, as far as the USSR debt was concerned, Russia remained the only republic to date which was actually repaying any of the debt.

The granting of the third installment of IMF credit intended to stabilise the ruble could not be expected earlier than the beginning of 1993, according to Shokhin. The main obstacle to Russia receiving this credit was its general financial instability, particularly the absence of any agreement between Russia and the other republics about the ruble zone.

Second Plutonium Reactor Closed in Krasnoyarsk

LD2909200492 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0639 GMT 29 Sep 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Yuriy Khots]

[Text] Krasnoyarsk September 29 TASS—Another nuclear reactor producing plutonium for military purposes was shut down at Krasnoyarsk nuclear enterprise on Tuesday [29 September].

The first reactor of the type was closed down this summer.

Both underground installations have been working in Krasnoyarsk for thirty years causing considerable pollution of the major Siberian Yenisei river in which they discharged radioactive water from the cooling systems.

Fifty years will be necessary to completely bury the reactors. Scientists will have to monitor them for years.

The Krasnoyarsk enterprise is now planning to produce small reactors which can generate heat and electricity in remote northern areas of Russia.

Regional Affairs

Kabardino-Balkar Leader on Explosive Situation

OW2909195592 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1925 GMT 29 Sep 92

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Kabardino-Balkaria President Valeriy Kokov described the situation in the republic's capital Nalchik as explosive. In an appeal to the peoples of the republic Tuesday [29 September] he emphasized that actions on the part of organizers of the civil unrest in the city are threatening not only Kabardino-Balkaria but also Russia. The President's appeal is being broadcast every half hour over state television.

According to certain reports, an oppositional demonstration which has continued for several weeks gathered some 20,000 people Tuesday evening.

Deputy Chairman Valeriy Khatazhukov of the national democratic movement Adyge Khase said during an Interfax interview that the demonstrators demand the resignation of the republic's president and withdrawal of OMON [special purpose militia detachment] divisions from Nalchik.

A statement passed at the demonstration also judges the positions of Russia and Georgia in relation to Abkhazia. "The meeting in Moscow between President Boris Yeltsin and Georgian State Committee Chairman Eduard Shevardnadze reaffirmed the unchanging course of Georgian and Russian policy towards Georgia's enslavement and absorption of Abkhazia," the document states.

Mr. Khatazhukov told Interfax that according to certian reports, President Valeriy Kokov is arming his supporters in certain regions.

Official Says Revolution Likely

OW2909125292 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1112 GMT 29 Sep 92

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] A member of the Kabardino-Balkar parliament Zaur Naloyev fears that in the near future a revolution might take place in that North Caucasian republic of the Russian Federation. In an interview with IF [INTERFAX] he said that the nation no longer supports the government or president which want to remain in power by force. That is the reason why the rally in Nalchik demands the resignation of the president of Kabardino-Balkaria Valeriy Kokov.

The MP [member of parliament] believes that if the situation gets out of control of the opposition Congress of the Kabardin People, a bloodshed in the republic is hardly avoidable.

Meanwhile, the rally organized by the Congress continues. On Tuesday [29 September] it started forming groups of volunteers to protect itself. According to the Congress, over 700 persons joined the groups.

The leader of the Confederation of the Mountain Peoples of the Caucasus Musa Shanibov in his speech at the rally called for constitutional methods of removing the leadership of the republic. He was detained by the Russian judicial authorities on September 23, but is free now. The circumstances of his release remain unclear.

According to Mr. Naloyev, the government has not announced whether charges against the Confederation leader have been dropped. Analysts believe that Mr. Shanibov was detained because of his public statements and the sending of volunteers to Abkhazia to fight against Georgian troops.

The local Interior Ministry refused to comment on the developments in Nalchik. Still a high-ranking official described the situation as complicated.

Chechen President Postpones U.S. Visit

OW2909180292 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1651 GMT 29 Sep 92

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Dzhokar Dudayev, the leader of the Republic of Checheniya, has postponed his upcoming visit to the U.S. and is expected to return to Groznyy from Turkey on Tuesday [29 September]. In Ankara he met with the president of the Turkish republic, Turgut Ozal.

According to the "Chechen-Press", Dudayev has postponed his visit to the U.S. due to the attempts of the Chechen opposition to hold a meeting in Groznyy despite the fact that mass demonstrations had been officially prohibited.

An INTERFAX correspondent reports that the central square of the city has been cordoned off by militiamen.

Admits Volunteers Fighting in Bosnia

LD2909164892 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1300 GMT 29 Sep 92

[Text] Volunteers from Chechnya are fighting in Bosnia-Hercegovina, General Dzhokhar Dudayev, head of the Chechen administration, admitted in Istanbul.

He also confirmed that Chechen volunteers were taking part in combat actions in Nagorno-Karabakh, ITAR-TASS reports.

Tatarstan Parliament Opens Session in Kazan

OW2809124392 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1123 GMT 28 Sep 92

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Monday [28 September] the republic's Supreme Soviet began its next session in Kazan, the capital of Tatarstan. The session is supposed to consider the draft constitution of Tatarstan in its second reading. Supervisors expect tough discussion on the draft constitution between the supporters of complete independence, on the one side, and the supporters of the union with Moscow, on the other.

About 150 representatives of national parties and movements are picketing the building of the parliament on Monday under the slogans: "Russian Imperialism, Hands off the Sovereign Tatarstan!", "Stop Autumn Call Up to Colonial Army of Russia!", "Security Service and Currency - for Tatarstan!" Addressing the demonstrators, the leader of the Party of national independence "Ittifak", a people's deputy of Tatarstan, Fuaziay Bairamova, accused Tatarstan's president Mintimer Shaimiev of cooperation with the Russian leadership.

In his interview with "IF" [INTERFAX] one of the organizers of the picketing, president of the All-Tatar public center, a people's deputy Marat Mulyukov pointed out that the people in the square demand adoption of an independent Tatarstan. "If the interests of the people are betrayed the parliament must hand over its authorities to the supporters of actual freedom and independence of Tatarstan", he said.

Tatar Leader on Signing Agreement With Russia

OW3009000892 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1426 GMT 29 Sep 92

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] President of Tatarstan Mintimer Shaymiyev maintains that "given the two parties show constructive approach" the agreement between Tatarstan and Russia can be signed by the end of this year. Speaking at the republic's parliament session in Kazan Tuesday [29 September] Mr. Shaymiyev said that such essential aspects as acknowledgment of equality and goodwill of the two republics, their right to self-determination, and Tatarstan's right to establish relations with foreign states have already been approved by the both sides.

In the words of Mr. Shaymiyev, the available draft agreement "clearly" defines Tatarstan's authority, outlines the spheres of the sides' mutual responsibility and "amply reflects the interests of the Russian Federation".

Touching on the internal political situation in the republic, the president characterized as "unlawful and unconstitutional" the activities of the oppositional Milli-Majlis which had instituted the offices of the Supreme Judge and Procurator of the Tatar people and established paramilitary formations reporting to it. "We cannot go along the way of adapting the politics to the extreme views that do not enjoy support of the republic's population," Mr Shaymiyev said.

Ex-Politburo Member Elected Deputy in N. Ossetia

LD2909163592 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1456 GMT 29 Sep 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Valery Shanayev]

[Text] Vladikavkaz September 29 TASS—North Ossetian mass media has circulated a report of the district electoral commission on results of elections of the Russian people's deputy from the Pliyevsky national-territorial electoral district no. 122 of the North Ossetian SSR [Soviet Socialist Republic], which says, in particular, on the basis of Article 48 of the Russian law "On Elections of the Russian People's Deputy", the district electoral commission has decided: to consider Aleksandr Dzasokhov, 1934, co-chairman of the International Association for Dialogue and Cooperation in the Asian-Pacific Region, Moscow, to be elected the Russian people's deputy from the Pliyevsky national-territorial district no. 122.

Dzasokhov, 58, elected from among the 11 candidates to the post in the electoral district, was a renown figure in the former Soviet Union. He was the Soviet ambassador to Syria, first secretary of the North Ossetian regional committee of the Soviet Communist Party, member of the Political Bureau and secretary of the Soviet Communist Party Central Committee.

Elected in 1989 the Soviet people's deputy, he headed the national Supreme Soviet's committee on international affairs.

Dzasokhov held a news conference in Vladikavkaz today to describe his stand as the Russian people's deputy. Asked about his future activities, Dzasokhov said "my participation in the elections in Northern Ossetia provoked certain interest on part of republican residents.

"I did not pursue my own ambitions—I am adherent to people aiming to act in the interests of the majority of Russian citizens, the motherland and Northern Ossetia.

"I should say the republican officials were somewhat cool about the nomination of my candidature from the Pliyevsky national- territorial district. It is understandable: I am a former member of the Political Bureau.

"However, electors made their choice: working people and peasants supported me, same as the North Ossetian intellectuals.

"Eleven people competed for the post. I am glad I have won. I learned much from my meetings with electors, whom I know well from my work in the former party committee. People of various nationalities want the same thing: they want peace and concord in the region.

"My task on the post of the Russian people's deputy is to stabilize the regional situation, help the North Ossetian people in the time of trial and influence the further positive settlement of the Ossetian-Georgian conflict," said Dzasokhov.

International Affairs

Foreign Minister Addresses UN on Aid, Debts

LD2909195892 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1850 GMT 29 Sep 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Boris Sitnikov]

[Excerpts] United Nations, 29 Sep—Having embarked on the path of reducing and destroying nuclear weapons, Ukraine "expects clear international guarantees for its national security." This was stated today by Ukrainian Foreign Minister Anatoliy Zlenko at the 47th session of the UN General Assembly. [passage omitted]

Ukraine's economy, A. Zlenko continued, "is completely exhausted and unbalanced." Ukraine has inherited "absolutely obsolete technology, a backward infrastructure, a burden of foreign debt, a lack of qualified administrative cadres, low living standards among the population, and galloping inflation." Only profound economic and political reforms, stressed the minister, will make it possible to surmount the transitional period to a market economy without acute social crises. He appealed to developed countries to give Ukraine financial and consultative assistance in the attainment of this aim. [passage omitted]

"Ukraine", stressed A. Zlenko in conclusion, "cannot agree with the purely mechanical approach to the question of proportional distribution of the former Soviet Union's payments. We resolutely object to the resolution of the latest session of the UN committee on payments, which recommended that, contrary to existing criteria, Ukraine's payment next year be increased by more than 50 percent. We will be striving for a radical review of the system for forming a scale of payments, and for it to be brought into line with today's realities, the level of development and payment-capability of UN member-states."

Naval School Students Swear Various Allegiances

OW2809025392 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1657 GMT 27 Sep 92

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Saturday [26 September] the majority of students of two naval military schools in Sevastopol swore allegiance to Ukraine.

292 out of 336 first year students in a military school named after Nakhimov swore an oath to Ukraine, 39 to Russia, 5 students who are representatives of other CIS states did not swear an oath.

362 first year students in an engineer military school expressed their willingness to serve to Ukraine and 87 students—to Russia.

Supervisors from the Ukrainian Defense Ministry and Russian Naval Command were present at the ceremony. At the near future an Ukrainian Naval Institute is to be formed on the basis of these two schools.

Yemen, Mongolia Cadets Graduate Lvov School Early

AU2809150492 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 1300 GMT 28 Sep 92

[Text] In accordance with the order by Ukraine Defense Minister Colonel General Kostyantyn Morozov, the transition by servicemen of our state's Armed Forces to wearing national symbols must be completed by 1 November of the current year. In this connection, Colonel Dmytro [second name indistinct], temporary acting chief of the Lvov Higher Military school, allowed those cadets who already have the new cockades and emblems to start wearing them on their own.

Yet another piece of news from the aforementioned school. A group of cadets from the foreign contingent has left the Lvov Higher Military School. As requested by the military attache of the Yemen Republic's embassy in Moscow and by the Mongolian Defense Ministry, students from these countries have successfully passed state examinations ahead of time and are preparing for the return to their countries for the continuation of their military service. The training of foreign students at the special department of this school continues. Citizens of Asian and African countries are predominant among them.

Helicopters, Crews Rented to Other Countries

AU2809161692 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 1300 GMT 28 Sep 92

[Text] The Kremenchuk [in Poltava Oblast] School for Civil Aviation Pilots has decided to act in line with the demands of this whimsical market epoch of ours. It has managed (?to improve its financial situation) with the help of providing paid services to all those wishing to use its helicopter fleet. The school presently rents out its winged machines together with their crews.

These services have already been used not only by a number of Ukrainian enterprises, but also by some Turkish and Czechoslovak firms. It cannot be ruled out that Kremenchuk helicopters will soon earn foreign currency under the clouds of China, Pakistan, and Peru. Negotiations on such a possibility are presently under way.

Exhibition Boosts Trade Ties With China

AU2909122992 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 1100 GMT 29 Sep 92

[Text] As reported by Ukraine's Trade and Industrial Chamber Administration of International and Foreign Exhibitions, the results of the exhibition in the Chinese town of Ukhan [name as heard] have been assessed. Products of 22 enterprises of our republic were represented there. During the work of that industrial forum, the administration received 18 concrete proposals from Chinese firms on the creation of joint enterprises in the [word indistinct] and foodstuffs industry, and in the manufacture of electrical goods, in particular, television sets. China is interested in the export of Ukrainian planes and sea vessels. In October, a large group of Chinese entrepreneurs will arrive in Ukraine. They intend to specifically discuss the questions of mutual cooperation.

Energy Price Hike Sends Black Market Dollar Up

AU2809154892 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 1400 GMT 28 Sep 92

[Text] The higher energy prices introduced by Russia will not yet present any hazard to Ukraine. The introduction of these by Russian President Boris Yeltsin will not, at least in the near future, in any way affect Ukraine's economic complex. This is the opinion expressed by Leonid Ilyin, Ukraine's First Deputy Eonomics Minister.

Meanwhile, following the Ukraine National Bank's latest increase of more than 30 points [punkty] (with regard to the U.S. dollar) of the rates of freely convertible currencies, the black market rate for the dollar has jumped sharply in Kiev. As of today, it constitutes, on the average, 365-370 coupons for one U.S. dollar. Anyone wishing to buy dollars must pay between five and 10 coupons more for one U.S. dollar.

However, the ruble equivalent of the U.S. dollar is not so burdensome for the pocket of those who wish to have this currency in their possession. The increase by Russia of the prices of energy resources has become the main factor that has spurred this dollar fever in Kiev, according to the majority of Ukrainian financiers and businessmen.

National Affairs

Kravchuk Addresses Supreme Council; Fokin Resigns

AU3009131392 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 1200 GMT 30 Sep 92

[Text] We inform our listeners that today the session of Ukraine's Supreme Council has resumed its work.

President Leonid Kravchuk made a report. He analyzed the activity of parties in our state, the situation in the sphere of interreligious relations, economic problems, spoke about some changes in Ukraine's government, and discussed the state's foreign policy.

The president also informed the deputies about the resignation of Ukraine's head of government Vitold Fokin in connection with the latter's retirement on pension.

[Moscow ITAR-TASS in Russian at 1422 GMT on 30 September, in a similar report, adds: "Ukraine Prime Minister Vitold Fokin resigned with the purpose of reducing political confrontation in the republic when many parties, movements, and public organizations are accusing the government of being unable to cope with the problems in the economy and to extricate Ukraine from the crisis. Ukraine President Leonid Kravchuk said this today at a session of the republican Supreme Soviet. At the same time he asked the head of government to continue to carry out his duties until a new premier is appointed."]

After answers to questions, discussion of the report began. Eleven deputies took part in the discussion. The speakers expressed their attitude toward the resignation of the head of the government and spoke about the decline in Ukraine's economy, inflation, the increase in unemployment, and imminent (?famine). The president was criticized for the unsubstantiated character of the statements in his report and their agitation and propagandistic nature.

At the same time, attention was drawn to the thought expressed by Deputy [Oleksandr] Moroz [chairman of Ukraine's Socialist Party], who aptly pointed out that the deputies had been mainly engaged in voicing accusations but that the accusations were directed against those who are not in charge of anything.

Deputy [word indistinct] expressed full support for the statements in the president's report.

His Excellency Ramon Gnatyshyn, governor general of Canada, who spoke at the morning meeting of the session, was warmly welcomed by the parliamentarians. He is currently in Ukraine on an official visit.

The deputies also heard the speech by Krylov, a representative of miners and metallurgists of Donbass and Dnipropetrovsk Oblast.

After the break, the discussion of the speech [by Kravchuk] will continue.

Officials Dismissed Over Illegal Arms Trade

OW2909144992 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1115 GMT 29 Sep 92

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] A military base at Shepetovka, a town in the Khmelnitskiy region, has sold 300 firearms of obsolete models this year. The trade was in keeping with the already invalid warrants of the former USSR Defence Ministry. The disclosure was made by the Ukrainian Defence Ministry's press-service on Monday [28 September].

A Ukrainian Defence Ministry's commission had complied with lawmakers' requests to investigate fire arms sales. On studying the investigation evidence and the conclusions drawn to this effect by the Defence Ministry's Board, President Leonid Kravchuk, the armed forces commander in chief, strongly censured the state of affairs with weapons storage. By his decree, the commander of the Carpathian military district's troops Valeriy Stepanov was dismissed.

President Kravchuk warranted the confiscation of the illegally traded arms. Sacked by a Defence Minister's order were the officials of the ministry and district command responsible for the illegal sale of weapons and those who'd neglected proper arms storage control. All these persons will be dismissed from the Ukrainian armed forces. Court actions have been started on the violation charges, all Ukrainian arsenals are being checked.

Kravchuk Issues New Directives on Combating Crime

AU2909134792 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 1300 GMT 20 Sep 92

[Text] Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk has issued directives on additional measures for intensifying the struggle against crime and for strengthening law and order

in Ukraine. They will be implemented by ministries, other central organs of the executive power, and by local state administrations. It is recommended, in particular, that by 1 November, a corresponding assessment be made of the actions undertaken by officials, state organs, enterprises, institutions, and organizations for preventing and stopping various criminal manifestations. It is also recommended that, by that date, the available materials on financial violations, abuse in economic structures in the process of privatization, and changes in the forms of ownership and licensing be analyzed.

Ukraine's Cabinet of Ministers must revise the organizational-personnel structure of the organs of internal affairs, primarily, of the Service for the Protection of the Economy and of the executive system for combating crime and bring it in line with the demands of crime prevention in contemporary conditions.

Government Reaffirms Denuclearization Commitment

OW2809234492 Moscow INTERFAX in English 2107 GMT 28 Sep 92

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Ukrainian presidential spokesman, Vladimir Shlyaposhnikov, has said that neither Leonid Kravchuk, nor other republican leaders have made official statements hinting it may reconsider its intention to eventually become free of nuclear weapons. This course is unchanged, and this means that Ukraine will stick to its nuclear disarmament commitments, Vladimir Shlyaposhnikov told journalists in Kiev.

In turn, the Ukrainian Defence Ministry press service has confirmed that "the republic's nuclear policy remains the same". The press service issued a statement saying that strategic weapons would be withdrawn from Ukraine and scrapped within seven years, which fully agrees with the international agreements to which Ukraine is a signatory".

Update on Nuclear Power Plants Status

AU2909180392 Kiev HOLOS UKRAYINY in Ukrainian 23 Sep 92 p 8

[Information issued by the Public Relations Service of Ukraine's State Atomic Supervision Committee: "Two Times Two Equals Zero"]

[Text] During August, seven out of Ukraine's 15 atomic energy stations were in operation and eight—under repairs. The radiation situation at all the atomic energy stations remained within the norms.

Twice, the automatic safeguard system halted the energy units at the Zaporizhzhya and Rivne atomic energy stations. On both occasions, the stoppages were due to the automatic disconnection of the generator, and, according to the international scale of assessment of events at atomic energy stations, they were at level zero.

Nor did two other unscheduled stoppages—of the second unit of the Zaporizhzhya and of the second unit of the South Ukrainian atomic energy stations—affect the safety of the stations, and they were classified as being outside the range of assessment. The first stoppage was dictated by the need to carry out minor repairs to the reactor's auxiliary piping; the second stoppage was due to the August heat wave, as a result of which the cooling water in the reservoir became too warm.

Repairs are still under way at the first and third units of the Chernobyl Atomic Electric Power Plant and the replacement of worn-out units is also continuing. The third unit is being prepared for removal from service.

Chernobyl Reactor Blocks Resuming Operations

WS2909131592 Kiev NEZAVISIMOST in Russian 16 Sep 92 p 1

[Text] After a six-month stoppage of all three remaining Chernobyl atomic power station blocks, the first and the third blocks are being prepared for work.

The second block was stopped in October last year after a fire broke out in the generator. According to V. Vasilchenko, chief engineer of the Chernobyl station, the station personnel have worked out all the necessary normative technical documentation for the station to operate at 50 percent of the reactor's capacity, which will exclude any possible destruction of the block.

The two remaining blocks were put out of operation after the incident at the Leningrad atomic station on 24 March 1992, when the stop valve was damaged. After that, a decision was made to replace stop valves on the reactors of that type.

The staff is currently working to complete the replacement of stop valves at the first and the third blocks, which will be put into operation in October.

The plans of the Chernobyl station leadership to put into operation two atomic blocks were seriously criticized by the leaders of the Ecology Ministry and the association "Shelter". According to them, turbines functioning close to the sarcophagus may cause the breakdown of radioactive substances inside the sarcophagus.

Scientists: State Must Regulate Power Engineering

AU2909152392 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 1400 GMT 29 Sep 92

[Text] A roundtable meeting in Kiev ended the two-day conference under the motto Power Engineering of Independent Ukraine and Ecological Safety. Scientists of the Academy of Sciences, specialists of the Power Engineering Ministry, the Nature Ministry, the Scientific and Technological Union of Ukraine's Power Engineers, as well as leaders of the Chernobyl Ministry and of the Ukratomenerhoprom Concern took part in it.

It was pointed out at the roundtable meeting that power engineering must be a subject for state regulation. In the opinion of its participants, a special coordinating state organ must be created that would undertake a study on the choice of optimal trends in the sphere of power engineering and financing in order that highly qualified specialist should carry out this work. In this connection, it is also

necessary to adopt corresponding legislative documents that would regulate such activity.

Armed Forces To Use National Symbols by 1 Nov

LD2909180492 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in English 0100 28 Sep 92

[Text] A transition to Ukraine's national symbols in its armed forces must be completed by 1st November this year. Such an order has been issued by Ukraine's Defence Minister Col Gen Kostyantyn Morozov.

Military Education System Being Reformed

PM2909142192 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 11 Sep 92 Morning Edition p 2

[Report by Lyudmila Dneprova: "Military Education in Ukraine Reformed"]

[Text] Kiev—The Ukrainian Defense Ministry intends to set up nine military institutes by 1995 on the basis of the existing 34 military colleges in Ukraine. Suvorov colleges will become military lycees, and the first has already opened this year in Lvov.

This was announced at a press conference by Major General Yu. Prokofyev, chief of the Ukrainian Defense Ministry Military Education Directorate. There was a particular discussion about the position of the Sevastopol colleges—the Higher Naval Engineering College and the Nakhimov Black Sea Higher Naval College. Their status is such, the major general stated, that they are not part of the Black Sea Fleet and therefore cannot be viewed as a subject of the negotiations. Moreover, he noted, as of 15 January this year, these colleges have been financed by Kiev, and 90 percent of the students are Ukrainian citizens. Thus these colleges too will be affected by the overall reform of military education. They will be transformed into a naval institute. Ukraine pledges to cover the costs of allowing current students, including freshmen, to complete their studies.

Rukh Leader Describes Talks With Kravchuk

WS2809131692 Kiev NEZAVISIMOST in Russian 16 Sep 92 pp 1,2 (tentative)

["Exclusive" interview with Rukh leader Vyacheslav Chornovil by correspondents A. Derepa and D. Ponamarchuk; place, date not given: "We Value Ukraine More Than Our President"]

[Text] [NEZAVISIMOST] Vyacheslav Maksimovich, as we know, an unofficial meeting was held the day before the leaders of the opposition parties met with Kravchuk.

[Chornovil] The meeting was not official. We did not want to make a political show. It is simply difficult to communicate with cameras pointed at you.

[NEZAVISIMOST] **But nevertheless?**

[Chornovil] This is not the first time that the leaders of the political parties supporting the ideas of Rukh and "Novaya Ukraina", met together. You know, we are pushing forward a new political campaign called "New Ukraine—New Parliament". At one such meeting, we made up our minds to tell the president our views, so that there would be no misunderstandings. We came to an agreement about those four questions that we were going to discuss with the president.

The first question is about the government. We declared that we insisted on the resignation of the present government because it is incapable of carrying out reforms. By the way, we do not support the creation of a coalition government of the representatives of different parties and organizations. This is not possible. The Supreme Soviet won't allow us to form a coalition government, because it is its responsibility to nominate the prime minister and eight principal ministers. That is why we agreed on a transitional government on condition that our recommendations would be taken into consideration. However, the president made it clear to us that he would try, once again, to revive the acting Cabinet of Ministers. Only a few days ago, this Cabinet fabricated a program called "How to act and what to do in order to deepen economic reforms in Ukraine". As for me, I can't understand the word "to deepen", because I think that the reforms are not being carried out at all. According to the president, this plan will be proposed to the Supreme Soviet on 26 September. If the legislature rejects it, the government will resign. We asked the president: "What if the Supreme Soviet approves of it?" "Well, the government will start realizing it", answered Kravchuk.

Our next question is about members of the government. We told Kravchuk that neither the Supreme Soviet nor the government and other executive organs had been elected on the basis of the multiparty system. That is why we cannot admit when some parties form the Cabinet and the others are in opposition to it. We propose to send our representatives to different governmental organs.

The third question concerns maintaining the activity of different political parties and civil organizations. We stated that when the Supreme Soviet, at the Social Party's initiative, deprived us of any state support, unhindered political activity and political pluralism became impossible in Ukraine. It was only as if you were playing with politics and political parties.

The fourth question is about mass media.

Formally, there is no censorship in Ukraine. However, censoring is being carried out by other means. We provided data on the "selectivity" of governmental material assistance. It concerned the paper support and the financial support. Some parties are given 50 million, others—7 or 8 million, while others are left without any support at all.

[NEZAVISIMOST] **What about radio and television?**

[Chornovil] Our side declared that we are not going to accept the situation when the State Radio and Television Company as a state organ carefully prescribes who uses the radio and television time and for how long, as well as what commentaries should follow all the political speeches.

[NEZAVISIMOST] **So what was Kravchuk's reaction?**

[Chornovil] To our surprise, he somehow supported us in this respect. He even offered to prepare suggestions on the reorganization of the State Radio and Television Company. We proposed to use the style of work of such known mass media companies as "BBC" and "The German Wave". The state can't interfere in their activities, which are shaped by the Council, and formed by representatives of all political forces.

Economic Activities Development Group Meets

LD2809155492 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 2200 GMT 28 Sep 92

[Text] A meeting of the administration of the Fund for Development of External Economic Activity took place in Kiev. Taking part were trade and economic advisors of 27 diplomatic representations accredited in Ukraine. Critical remarks were examined and included in the Fund's rules. Four new representatives have been admitted to the Fund. We will add that this Fund has the task of assisting in attracting foreign investments to Ukraine and also in cooperation of Ukrainian entrepreneurs with foreign businessmen.

Miners' Trade Union Leaders Support Cabinet

OW2909010992 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1521 GMT 28 Sep 92

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The directors of the Donbass coal-miners' unions have expressed support for the Ukrainian Cabinet of Ministers. In an announcement in the Ukrainian parliament, they said that currently "only the Cabinet of Ministers is capable of lifting the economy of Ukraine out of the crisis." The directors say that the government has the trust of industrial managers and that its being replaced would lead to "unfortunate consequences for the country's economy." The address was written by the presidents of the operations Donetskugol, Dzherzinskugol, and Artemovskugol.

National Congress on Regrouping of Government

OW2909011092 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1520 GMT 28 Sep 92

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Ukraine's Congress of National and Democratic forces is in favour of a "re-grouping of forces in the government", according to a statement made in Kiev on Monday [28 September] at session of the Council of the Congress by co-chairman of the Congress Yuriy Badzo.

Chairman of the Ukrainian Supreme Council International Affairs Commission Dmitriy Pavlychko has backed the demand for the resignation of Prime Minister Vitold Fokin. In his opinion, "the present government is "slowing down the process of Ukraine's withdrawal from the CIS". The Congress of of National and Democratic forces is an organisation which was formed in August this year. Its membership includes the Republican and Democratic Parties and some of the members of the Narodnyy Rukh. The Congress, in contrast to Rukh, supports the policies being pursued by the President of Ukraine.

Crimean Voters Demand Fixed Election Date

LD2509110192 Kiev UKRINFORM in Russian 1543 GMT 21 Sep 92

[Text] The first congress of Crimean voters, scheduled previously for 19 September, has been postponed until 22 November. This decision was made at the extraordinary congress of the Movement of Voters for the Republic of Crimea, which took place in Simferopol. Its delegates discussed the work of the Crimean parliament and deemed it unsatisfactory. They demanded that the Supreme Soviet remove from the agenda of the routine session which is to open on 24 September the issue of bringing the republic's Constitution in compliance with the legislation of Ukraine and go back to considering it only after nationwide discussion of these amendments. The demands of calling off the moratorium, introduced by the parliament, on holding a referendum on the state status of Crimea and of fixing a date of holding elections of the president of the republic and its new Supreme Soviet were also put forward. The demand of passing all issues connected with appointment and transfer of commanders of military units stationed on the peninsular over to jurisdiction of the Crimean Defense Council was included in the resolution as a special paragraph.

Low-Income Families To Receive Subsidies

AU2809131592 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 1100 GMT 28 Sep 92

[Text] On 1 October, payments to low-income families for purchasing foodstuffs will be increased. This obligation has been taken by Ukraine's Cabinet of Ministers with regard to those whose income constitutes less than double minimal wage. A new agreement, signed one month ago, has been concluded between the government and six independent trade unions for the second half of the current year. This document provides for a normal and constructive partnership between all interested sides and is aimed against methods of coercion in resolving vitally important questions—guarantee of employment, health care, and social protection of the population.

Poll Notes Public Pessimism on Constitution

LD2809152092 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 2200 GMT 27 Sep 92

[Summary] An opinion poll about whether the population of Zaporozhye has studied the draft of the new Ukrainian constitution turned out to be pessimistic: only 5-7 percent of local inhabitants said they have mastered this document in full; 57-58 percent have mastered it only in part, and 35-39 percent are not familiar with it at all.

In addition, 15 percent of those polled believe that preparations for the new basic law of Ukraine will make it possible to strengthen more actively its statehood and rights and freedoms of citizens; more than 25 percent of those polled believe the opposite; and most people are uncertain.

Decommissioned Tanks Used for Scrap

PM2909153992 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 24 Sep 92 Morning Edition p 1

[UKRINFORM-TASS report: "Tanks to the Furnace"]

[Text] Nikolayev's "Vtorchermet" enterprise has embarked on mass breaking of armored personnel carriers and tanks from nearby military units as a result of the arms reduction program.

The Ukrainian furnaces will receive about 1,000 tonnes of scrap metal from combat vehicles before the end of the year. In order to interest the military in making regular deliveries of written-off hardware, the enterprise is paying them 1,500 rubles for every tonne of scrap metal turned in.

Belarus

Nuclear Talks With U.S. Open in Minsk

LD2909095192 Moscow Programma Radio Odin Network in Russian 0830 GMT 29 Sep 92

[Text] Talks between Belarus and the United States on the destruction of nuclear weapons have begun in Minsk. On the agenda are a discussion of clean-up operations after nuclear accidents, a communications system linking the Belarus national supervisory and inspection agency with the American national center for reducing nuclear danger, and expert supervision of imports and exports of strategic components for weapons of mass destruction.

Shushkevich Said Favoring Germany in Ties

OW2909182592 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1732 GMT 29 Sep 92

[Report prepared by Andrey Pershin, Andrey Petrovskiy, and Vladimir Shishlin; edited by Boris Grishchenko; from "Presidential Bulletin"—following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Many Minsk observers see the possibility of an intensification of the differences in the republic's political leadership. This conclusion was drawn on the basis of attempts by some high officials to interpret with bias the details of parliamentary chairman Stanislav Shushkevich's recent six day trip to Germany.

For example, the fact that Shushkevich's working visit to Germany was paid for neither by Belarus's budget nor by the German government is getting special attention. Sources in Belarus's higher leadership confirm that members of the republic's delegation flew from Minsk to Germany in a 12 person airplane owned by a private German firm.

These sources view this information as a testimony to the "extremely favorable" relationship the parliamentary leader maintains toward the development of Belarusian-German relations. On this issue Shushkevich is quoted as saying that "Germany is one of the priority powers with which Belarus intends to strengthen political and economic ties." Also under speculation is the plan of Shushkevich and one of his close advisors to establish the International Humanitarian Institute in Minsk, in which Germany will supposedly play a significant role.

IF [INTERFAX] Note: According to information received by the government, Germany's currency investments in Belarus' economy comprise more than ⅓ the general sum of all investments from foreign states. In the time period from March to July alone, credit agreements for more than 1 bn DM [billion deutsche marks] were signed between Belarus's foreign economic bank and German banks. Of all countries, Germany has the second most (after Poland) joint enterprises with Belarus - 64.

Kebich Creates New Body To Supervise Economy

OW2909182492 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1733 GMT 29 Sep 92

[Report prepared by Andrey Pershin, Andrey Petrovskiy, and Vladimir Shishlin; edited by Boris Grishchenko; from "Presidential Bulletin"—following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Prime Minister Vyacheslav Kebich has signed an authorisation for the formation of a governmental Department for supervising the economy. An Interfax reporter was informed in the Cabinet offices that this step was taken in view of the necessity of ensuring that decisions made by the Belarusian government in accordance with the introduction, from October 1st, of a new state monopoly for the sale of ferrous and non-ferrous metals outside Belarus were carried out.

On the same date, a state monoploy for the sale of all alcoholic beverages and tobacco will come into force. Belarusian organisations and enterprises have been prohibited from selling on the exchanges commodities for central distribution.

The prime minister has requested the Belarusian National Bank to make a joint investigation with the Finance Ministry into profit distribution by the republic's commercial banks. The inspection must be completed within one month.

Commission Created for Reforming Armed Forces

PM2909124592 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 24 Sep 92 Morning Edition p 1

[BELINFORM-TASS report: "Commission for Reforming Armed Forces Set Up in Belarus"]

[Text] A State Commission for Reforming the Armed Forces headed by Vyacheslav Kuznetsov, first deputy chairman of parliament, has been set up in the Belarusian Supreme Soviet.

The commission's main aim is to formulate a military doctrine, determine the number of people in the Armed Forces, and draw up proposals for resolving the social problems of servicemen and their families.

Moldova

14th Army Commander Says No Work on Pullout

PM2909085992 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 24 Sep 92 p 3

[RIA report: "General Aleksandr Lebed on 14th Army's Fate"]

[Text] "A delegation from the Russian Defense Ministry is ready to come to the Dniester Region to decide the 14th Army's fate," the army's commander Lieutenant General Aleksandr Lebed stated today at a session of the Dniester Moldovan Republic Supreme Soviet. He emphasized that, according to information in his possession, the Russian

Armed Forces General Staff has not, for the moment, set about working anything out concerning the 14th Army's withdrawal.

The commander complained about the Dniester region's leadership, which in his view is making little effort to return 400 deserters to the subunits. Peace has come for the soldiers in the Dniester Region, the general said. For the diplomats this is an intense period of resolving all problems by political means. The general does not, however, perceive any particular desire either on the part of Moldova or the Dniester Region for political dialogue.

Passive Policy Hampers Dniester Solution

PM2909143992 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 25 Sep 92 First Edition p 7

[Report by Lyudmila Feliksova: "Confrontation: No Political Decisions"]

[Text] The monitoring commission comprising representatives of the three sides—Russia, Moldova, and the Dniester region—considers its functions to have been performed: The situation in the conflict zone has been stabilized. In this connection it has issued a statement the crux of which is that political decisions are clearly overdue. From the outset, the monitoring commission has frequently stressed that it will not assume any political functions. It was only a question of creating favorable conditions for the politicians. Now they have been created: There is no shooting, no killing, and people are not in the grip of armed confrontation. The Dniester region needs a clearly defined status, but the politicians seem to have fallen into a state of suspended animation.

The Moldovan coalition government seems to be justifying its appointment. New Premier A. Sangheli has visited the Dniester region, as have some ministers. Business relations have gotten off the ground. A parity commission has been set up to examine economic and financial problems, and, most importantly, it is resolving them. Mutual payments have been made, the Left Bank has begun to supply commodities to the Right Bank, and economic ties have resumed.

As for political talks, they have not even begun. Admittedly, the Dniester region has set up a commission for this purpose and submitted proposals to Chisinau, but no response has been forthcoming. According to unofficial reports, M. Snegur planned a meeting with I. Smirnov, but things ended with a local NEZAVISIMAYA MOLDOVA staffer being fired for publishing this report. Whatever the details, the main thing is clear—Chisinau's passive stance is aggravating the situation.

Chisinau's stance can, moreover, only be described as passive in theoretical terms. The latest political line seems to be starting to emerge. Official Chisinau, including President M. Snegur, with increasing frequency and more and more loudly is heaping all responsibility for events on the Left Bank on the Dniester region itself and saying increasingly persistently that the Dniester leaders' position is unconstructive. However, the Right Bank is in no rush to make constructive suggestions either.

Meanwhile, M. Snegur has issued a decree on certain measures to ensure the implementation of state language legislation, a decree which says that all officials, not only those working for state subunits, will be obliged to undergo certification in 1994 as to their knowledge of the state language. The language department is being vested with additional powers, including monitoring functions, and its staff is being expanded. The decree sounds fairly tough and menacing to those who do not speak Romanian. You can only guess at the reasons for its appearance and the considerations that are guiding the president in tackling these problems, which are not so much stabilizing as undermining the situation in the republic.

Opposition Wants Snegur To Abrogate CIS Treaty

AU2909184092 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1642 GMT 29 Sep 92

[Text] Chisinau, ROMPRES, 29/9/1992—The participants in the rally the Christian and Democratic People's Front called in Chisinau Sunday, September 27, consider that, owing to its adherence to the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) and its capitulation to the aggressor, Snegur's regime promotes a policy that betrays national interests, shows bondage to Moscow and procrastinates Romania's reunification, says a statement released by MOLDOVA PRES agency. To accept the aggressor state's troops as peace-keeping forces is to tarnish the memory of the patriots who died in the fight for safeguarding national dignity and independence.

The statement demands President Snegur to cancel his signature on the treaty of adherence of the Republic of Moldova to CIS, just as immediate and unconditional withdrawal of all the occupational troops from the territory of the republic.

The participants in the meeting assess that the serious situation, the economic and political deadlock the country is confronted with is but a direct consequence of the president's activity and demand him to admit his inability to cope with such a situation and give up his mandate of president of the republic, the document also says.

Snegur Receives Social Democratic Party Envoys

AU2909172592 Bucharest Radio Romania Network in Romanian 1400 GMT 29 Sep 92

[Report by Marius Tita in Chisinau]

[Text] The Social Democratic Party of Moldova is no opposition group, but it will exercise its right to freedom of expression whenever those who are in power make mistakes, said the leaders of this party today during a meeting with Moldovan President Mircea Snegur.

The Social Democrats stated that their platform endorses the presidential republic form of government because that is one of the key elements of Moldova's independence. Due to the fact that certain parties and other groups are circulating the idea of union [with Romania], which has impeded on the development of an active Moldovan foreign policy, the Social Democratic Party proposes that

concrete steps should be made to assert Moldova's independence. Such steps would include the establishment of close diplomatic ties with the neighboring countries and the countries whose nationals are currently living as ethnic minorities in Moldova and the elaboration of a new constitution of the republic.

According to the presidential press office, Mr. Mircea Snegur saluted the view expressed by the party delegates stating that Moldova is and will be an independent country that is displaying all characteristic features any state should.

Talking about the social and political situation in the republic, President Mircea Snegur mentioned that progress has been achieved in talks conducted with the Gagauz people living in the southern part of the country, but the situation on the left bank of the Dniester River continues to be difficult. He highlighted the fact that the Social Democrats' opinion concerning this issue is very important because that party is being endorsed by the intellectuals living in that area.

Talking about economic reform, Mr. Snegur announced that the privatization program will be discussed by the government over the next few days. Parliament is to examine the draft of the new constitution before the end of this fall, Mr. Mircea Snegur said, suggesting that the whole Moldovan people should express its views concerning that document.

Intellectuals Call for Solidarity

AU2509094792 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1601 GMT 24 Sep 92

[Text] Chisinau, ROMPRES, 24/9/1992—Today, when patriotism is seen as a shame and when to speak Romanian is regarded as a lack of common sense, the intellectuals in the Republic of Moldova consider that to fail to get involved in everything that is happening around them means to be tacitly solid with the people that do not want the good of this troubled country, means to fail to do their duty as promoters of culture and freedom, shows a statement by men of science, letters and art in the Republic of Moldova, printed in the weekly LITERATURA SI ARTA (Literature and Art).

The war in the eastern districts of Moldova, started by imperial-Bolshevik forces, the convention concluded, which is but a capitulation, the dire poverty, the lack of prospects for the many and the attack on the successes of democracy and on national rebirth allow us to understand that unless we are united today we will disappear as a nation, as a kin from this stretch of land, we will be worthy of the contempt of our followers, because in the most difficult moments in our history we could not oppose inertia and moral, political and economic disaster, the document reads.

Concluding their statement, the authors urge the intellectuals throughout the Republic of Moldova to show solidarity in the fight to win the battle for independence and freedom, before it is too late.

Condemn Leaderships' 'Romanophobia'

AU2809133692 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 0817 GMT 28 Sep 92

[Text] Bucharest ROMPRES, 28/9/1992—The first meeting of the Association of the Men of Letters and Science of Moldova was held in Chisinau. The speakers, ministers, writers, deputies, representatives of the patriotic clergy, teaching staff, and young artists unanimously highlighted the need for solidarity in conditions in which the restoration of Russians rules advances fast in Moldova. Grave things are happening, writer Dabija said. After three years the Russian language continues to be the state language. The outbreak of the war in the Dniester region, poverty, and high prices are blamed on the intellectuals. There is the threat that we return to the CIS following the understanding between Moldovan President Mircea Snegur and separatist leader Igor Smirnov, which implicitly means the recognition of the so-called Dniester Republic, the speaker said.

It was also showed that the country's present independence was an illusion in conditions in which a Russian occupation army remained in Moldova, and that under those circumstances the intellectuals must rally to safeguard the integrity of the Romanian nation in the fight against the conservative forces, of the nomenklatura which returned to power.

During the debates stress was laid on the particular concern over a growing Romanophobia at the top level of the leadership and over the fact that Moldova had not signed yet the treaty of fraternity with Romania.

Kazakhstan

Nazarbayev Holds Talks With Finnish President

LD2909171492 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1235 GMT 29 Sep 92

[By KAZTAG correspondent Ivan Zakharchenko for TASS]

[Text] Alma-Ata, 29 Sep—"Kazakhstan has moved a long way forward in setting up business relations with many countries of the world, including Finland. However, now cooperation between the two sovereign states must be built to take account of the interests of the sides and present-day realities," said Finnish President Mauno Koivisto. This morning he held talks with Kazakh President Nursultan Nazarbayev that lasted more than two hours. Afterwards, the heads of state and members of the two delegations met for discussions.

"Formerly our countries had fair economic ties", Nazarbayev noted. "We hope that these will become broader and stronger. The agreement on commercial and economic cooperation and the treaty on reciprocal encouragement and protection of investments which are to be signed today are a guarantee of that." Nazarbayev proposed the exchange of diplomatic missions to give impetus to the growing contacts.

In the afternoon the Kazakhstan-Finnish documents are to be signed and a press conference held by the presidents.

Nazarbayev Visits FRG; Promotes Trade

PM2909104992 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 24 Sep 92 Morning Edition p 1

[Report by Yevgeniy Bovkun: "Nazarbayev's Visit to Germany: Kazakh Breakthrough on 'German Front'"]

[Text] Bonn—Kazakhstan has every chance of becoming the "economic center of Central Asia," and Germany is prepared to encourage this, Hans Peter Stihl, president of the German Chamber of Trade and Industry, stated during Kazakh President Nursultan Nazarbayev's visit to the FRG.

For his part, N. Nazarbayev intimated that the republic is waiting for German investors and he would like to establish closer cooperation with Germany. He said that Kazakhstan will emerge from poverty faster than other former Soviet republics if Germans provide assistance with capital investments.

Chancellor Helmut Kohl and N. Nazarbayev signed a joint statement in Bonn on the basic principles of relations between the two states. At the same time, the representatives of both sides put their signatures to a treaty on developing extensive cooperation in the sphere of the economy, industry, science, and technology, and a treaty on encouraging and mutually protecting capital investments.

At the present time, Helmut Kohl said in his speech, a process of profound economic and political transformations is under way in Kazakhstan, and the republic has embarked on the path of developing private initiative and the market economy. Germany and its Western partners are prepared to offer every kind of support during this process, help with a view to self-help, so to speak. The FRG Government is encouraging cooperation with Kazakhstan, not least by granting credit guarantees. Nazarbayev promised to continue the privatization process that is forging ahead. Some 45 percent of housing construction, 50 percent of trade and services, and 12 percent of industry have been transferred to the private sector in six months. The president expressed his readiness to share minerals and raw materials with the Germans if they help Kazakhstan to "take off." The first agreements in the sphere of training managers have already been concluded.

Nazarbayev has proposed extensive cooperation to Germany's big, medium, and small businesses. According to him, a brief formula for taking joint steps might look like this: "Study, communications, capital." The first step could include active joint study of investment problems.

During the discussions there was talk of new and interesting projects, including projects in the field of producing cars, developing energy supplies, modernizing telecommunications, and also building an international airport in Alma-Ata.

Local observers speak highly of the results of the Kazakh president's visit to the FRG; according to them, Kazakhstan has managed to secure more than any other CIS republic in the economic sphere.

Majority Supports Plan To Strengthen CIS Ties

OW2909183092 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1733 GMT 29 Sep 92

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The majority of Kazakhstan's population supports the initiatives which President Nazarbayev will advance during the forthcoming Bishkek summit. An opinion poll revealed that his idea of establishing a CIS economic council is supported by 92 per cent of the respondents. A single banking union was welcomed by 73.4 per cent and a single economic court - by 69.3 per cent of those polled. As many as 84.3 per cent of the respondents back the idea of enhancing the status of the inter-parliamentary assembly and 65.4 per cent of those polled come out for the formation of a single defence union.

The Kazakh parliament's information center told IF [INTERFAX] that the opinion poll was held jointly with the governmental newspaper Sovety Kazakhstana and involved 10,000 respondents. Only 6.2 per cent of them fear lest an inter-state coordinating economic council might damage Kazakhstan's national sovereignty; 62.8 per cent of the respondents believe that the CIS states must constitute a single rouble zone; 14.6 per cent of those polled favour the introduction of a new monetary unit and 11.3 per cent of the respondents come out for the establishment of national currencies.

Only 13.5 per cent of the respondents think that Kazakhstan may abstain from joining military alliances, and

stick to neutrality; 10.2 per cent think that Kazakhstan may rely exclusively on the armed forces of its own and 7 per cent of the respondents support the idea of establishing an Asian defence union.

Economic Cooperation Committee Formed With Japan

OW2809014692 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1642 GMT 27 Sep 92

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Kazakhstan and Japan agreed to form a Kazakh-Japanese coordinating structure on trade and economic cooperation.

At talks in Alma-Ata (the capital of Kazakhstan) between the Kazakh Deputy Minister of Foreign Economic Relations Bolatkhan Taizhanov and President of the Japanese association Sotoba, Katsuo Ogawa, the two nations also discussed the possibility of Japanese specialists participating in the refurbishment of Kazakh metallurgy centers. The two nations agreed to set up a business information center.

Sotoba currently encompasses over 750 private firms and scientific research institutes which have representative offices in Eastern European and CIS nations.

Only Half of Karaganda Oblast's Wheat Harvested

LD2809113592 Alma-Ata Kazakh Radio Network in Russian 0600 GMT 26 Sep 92

[Summary] At this time last year, bread grain growers of Karaganda Oblast were completing the harvest whereas only half of the oblast's wheat has been threshed so far this year. The cold rainy weather has added to the problems caused by the late supply of fuel and spare parts. In Karaganda, less potatoes, vegetables, and fodder than required have been laid in.

Kyrgyzstan

President Decrees Founding of Slavonic University

OW3009011392 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1734 GMT 29 Sep 92

[Report prepared by Andrey Pershin, Andrey Petrovskiy, and Vladimir Shishlin; edited by Boris Grishchenko; from "Presidential Bulletin"—following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] President Askar Akayev has signed a decree on the foundation in Bishkek of a Kyrgyzstani/Russian (Slavonic) University. Interfax was informed in the president's press centre that this step had been taken in accordance with a friendship, collaboration and mutual assistance agreement made between Russia and Kyrgyzstan.

It is proposed that the new university will offer courses to Kyrgyzstani students in Russian in those specialities of most importance to the republic. Russian speaking students will be able to "satisfy higher education requirements in the Russian language for arts, technical, economic and law disciplines". The republic's non-indigenous population will, simultaneously, have the opportunity to perfect its knowlege of the Kyrgyz state language in the new higher educational establishment.

Eminent Russian scientists and lecturers "who are capable of contributing to the development of the scientific and technical potential of the republic" will be invited to work at the university.

The university is to be jointly financed by both republics together with voluntary contributions from entrepreneurial bodies, non-governmental funds and public organisations.

The two governments are expected to decide jointly on the allocation of all material requisites for the university's academic programmes (libraries, laboratory equipment etc) and administrative side before November 1st.

Turkic Education Conference Opens in Bishkek

TA2909143492 Ankara Turkiye Radyolari Network in Turkish 1100 GMT 29 Sep 92

[Text] The second conference of the education ministers of Turkic republics and communities has begun in Bishkek, the capital of Kyrgyzstan. Turkey is represented by National Education Minister Koksal Toptan. TRT [Turkish Radio and Television] correspondent Yavuz Yorulmaz reports from Bishkek:

[Yorulmaz] Reaching a common point concerning the use of the Latin alphabet, student and teacher exchanges, joint preparation of certain aspects of the school curriculum, and the establishment of a common cultural language are on the agenda of the conference.

The conference began with an opening speech delivered by Kyrgyz Deputy Prime Minister Abdyrany Erkebayev, who said that the Turkic republics must first resolve their educational problems. If these countries are strong in the educational and cultural fields, their democratization efforts will gain speed, Erkebayev remarked. Pointing out that these republics are using the establishment of the Turkish Republic by Ataturk as a model for their independence, the Kyrgyz deputy prime minister declared that the 21st century will (?belong) to the Turks, who share common roots, language, culture, and religion.

Also addressing the conference, Toptan explained that the unity and harmony of the Turkish world was disrupted at times when it failed to act singularly. It is therefore essential to join hands, Toptan said. Noting that the Turkic world currently covers a very large area, stretching from Siberia to North Africa and from China to Central Asia, Toptan remarked that living in different geographical locations cannot be a reason for thinking differently, becoming detached from one another, or forgetting each other.

Toptan added: For now, the most important factor that will secure our unity and develop our language is a common alphabet. It is our desire that everything written in the Turkish world be read and understood by all Turks. The education minister announced that 10,000 students from the Turkic republics have been invited to study in

Turkey and these students are viewed as the sound foundations of the Turkish world's future.

The other education ministers attending the conference explained that they want to benefit from Turkey's experience in the educational field. The committees established at the conference are discussing educational problems and ways to resolve them. The conference will end on 3 October.

Tajikistan

Tajik President Appeals to UN, CIS Leaders

LD3009111792 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1053 GMT 30 Sep 92

[By KHOVAR correspondent Valeriy Zhukov for TASS]

[Text] Dushanbe September 30 TASS—Akbarsho Iskandarov, Tajik acting president and chairman of parliament, has sent personal messages to the U.N. secretary-general and leaders of the CIS.

In a message to Butrus-Ghali Iskandarov informed him of the fact that, despite the measures taken, the armed conflict in the south of the republic is expanding. In this situation "the Presidium of the Tajik Supreme Soviet (parliament) and government are sparing no efforts for preventing the aggravation of the broad civil conflict, which is fraught with unpredictable consequences not only for the neighbouring CIS member states, but also, perhaps, for the whole of the world community."

Iskandarov pointed out that Tajikistan counted on the assistance and support of the world community in settling the conflict and stabilising the situation in the republic.

He asked the CIS leaders to "take urgent measures for rendering active assistance to the constitutional government of the Republic of Tajikistan in normalising the situation, establishing peace and accord on Tajik land." The message to the CIS leaders says that Tajikistan does not have enough resources to curb effectively the actions of the warring sides. The Russian troops deployed in Tajikistan are beginning to be drawn into the armed confrontation, whether they are willing to do it or not. Several pieces of military hardware, captured by fighters, are being used in combat operations by one of the warring sides.

The message points out that Tajikistan is now facing the threat of the capture of military facilities of the Russian Army and key economic facilities of the republic.

Iskandarov Says Situation Complicated, Strained

OW2909201692 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1931 GMT 29 Sep 92

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Acting Tajik President and Parliament Chairman Akbarsho Iskandarov announced at a briefing Tuesday [29 September] in Dushanbe that there is no reason to discuss the creation of an Islamic state in Tajikistan today.

He described the situation in the republic as "complicated and strained to say the least", especially in the Kurgan-Tyube district and the city of Kurgan-Tyube. He said the industrial enterprises there were almost entirely destroyed during the fighting, that many people are in need of blood and that many have been killed or are missing.

The acting President noted that negotiations to end the armed conflict have not yielded any result. "The time has come for concrete actions," he emphasized. "And the republic's government has already taken the first steps in that direction". Among these steps, Mr. Iskandarov pointed to the formation of a Defense Ministry and the recruitment of a national guard which will answer directly to the republic's leadership.

Iskandarov further said Russian military units on the republic's territory are being reenforced by request of Tajikistan and does not mean Russian interference in its internal affairs. The acting President announced that a special state commission has been formed to investigate the theft by one of the fighting sides of armored vehicles from the Russian Army.

Kulyab Local Administration Official Resigns

LD2909183292 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1239 GMT 28 Sep 92

[By KHOVAR correspondent Nabi Karimov for TASS]

[Tex] Dushanbe September 28 TASS—The emergency session of the Kulyab regional council of people's deputies was held today. It discussed personnel matters. The resignation application of Kurbanali Mirzoaliev, chairman of the executive committee of the council of people's deputies of the Kulyab region, was satisfied. People's deputies unanimously elected to that post Dzhienkhon Rizoev, previously head of the interior department of the Kulyab executive committee.

The situation in the region continues to be complicated. An acute shortage of bread, clothes, fuel and other essentials is being felt there because of the economic blockade.

Death Toll From Fighting Reaches 5,000

LD2909175992 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1500 GMT 29 Sep 92

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Excerpt] Five thousand people have been killed as a result of clashes in the past four months in Tajikistan. This was announced today by the authorities of southern Kurgan-Tuybe Oblast. In their words, hundreds of dwellings have been destroyed.

Against this gloomy background there was a hopeful note in the report by General Ashurov, commander of the Russian troops deployed in Tajikistan. According to his figures, the opposing sides are running out of cartridges. [passage omitted]

Turkmenistan

Niyazov: Dual Citizenship Aids Interethnic Peace

OW3009012092 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1739 GMT 29 Sep 92

[Report prepared by Andrey Pershin, Andrey Petrovskiy, and Vladimir Shishlin; edited by Boris Grishchenko; from "Presidential Bulletin"—following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] President Saparmurad Niyazov believes that the introduction of dual citizenship in Turkmenistan will not contradict the constitution's declaration that the republic "has its own citizenship." The head of the government, appealing to representatives of the creative intelligentsia of Turkmenistan, emphasized that the acceptance of this position would allow the republic to preserve peace and interethnic harmony. He said on this point that he was referring back to the experience of other countries which allow dual citizenship.

IF [INTERFAX] Note: The next session of the parliament of Turkmenistan will begin on 30 September. In addition to other draft laws, the deputies will discuss one on citizenship which includes a provision regarding dual citizenship.

The president also advised that the draft law envisioned a number of requirements for those wishing to become citizens of Turkmenistan, in particular knowledge of the Turkmen language and (for citizens of the former USSR) seven years' residence in the republic.

Observers expect that Niyazov's discussion of the terms of citizenship was spurred by his desire not to repeat a mistake he made three years ago when, appearing before the scientific community, he said that there was a possibility of legislation codifying bilingualism in the republic. The announcement resulted in dissatisfaction among the intelligentsia of Turkmenistan and attempts to organize an opposition movement with the goal of attaining independence. The emotional response, however, was cut short by the adoption of a law on the Turkmen state language, and then in 1991 by the republic's declaration of independence. It is possible, say observers, that Niyazov's statement, made as it was with reference to international experience and the necessity of preserving peace and harmony, will allow the president to avoid upsetting those parts of the Turkmen intelligentsia which tend to oppose dual citizenship.

Niyazov Confirms Policy of Positive Neutrality

OW3009012192 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1739 GMT 29 Sep 92

[Report prepared by Andrey Pershin, Andrey Petrovskiy, and Vladimir Shishlin; edited by Boris Grishchenko; from "Presidential Bulletin"—following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Turkmenistan will steadfastly follow its policy of positive neutrality in order to preserve and strengthen its sovereignty, said president Saparmurad Niyazov at a meeting with representatives of the creative intelligentsia. He again confirmed that if the charter of the CIS envisions the establishment of coordinating organs, Turkmenistan would sign no such document. Niyazov remarked, "Coordination—that means control, and control, that's command." IF [INTERFAX] Note: This point of the CIS charter has been placed on the agenda of the October 9 meeting in Bishkek of the heads of the states of the Commonwealth.

According to Niyazov, questions involving the CIS charter were part of a discussion he had with Konstantin Masik, the first vice-premier of Ukraine while he was in Ashgabat; he said that the positions of both sides were in agreement on the matter.

Uzbekistan

Cooperation Agreements Signed With Kyrgyzstan

OW2909185792 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1740 GMT 29 Sep 92

[Report prepared by Andrey Pershin, Andrey Petrovskiy, and Vladimir Shishlin; edited by Boris Grishchenko; from "Presidential Bulletin"—following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] President Islam Karimov and President of Kyrgyzstan Askar Akayev signed an agreement in Tashkent Tuesday on friendship, collaboration, and mutual aid between their two countries, as well as several other documents.

Earlier, on his arrival to the Uzbek capitol, Akayev told journalists at the airport that he considered the visit a "confirmation of the traditional friendship and already developed relationship with Uzbekistan." He believes that at present "new prospects are opening up for collaboration in the conducting of coordinated policies and concrete measures in various areas of international life, economy, culture, and law." He also expressed his satisfaction with the fact that the negotiations with Karimov are being held in the time period before the meeting of heads of Commonwealth states in Bishkek.

In the agreement the parties confirmed their desires to broaden and strengthen bilateral political and economic collaboration, to cooperate in the international arena, to promote the continuation of the disarmament process and to promote peace and stability in the Central Asian-Kazakhstan region.

The agreement states that Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan will coordinate their actions in the implementation of economic reforms, including structural, monetary and crediting, currency, taxation, and pricing policies. Economic and trade relations are being built on the basis of the mutual granting of the most favorable conditions.

Both states intend to ensure free entrance, exit, and transportation of citizens of their countries on their territories and to secure coordinated conditions for entry and exit to other countries.

The document also stipulates collaboration in the conducting of a joint, coordinated defense policy, as well as cooperation in border guarding, peace keeping, and the ensuring of security in the region. If an act of aggression is made on one of the countries, they will mutually provide necessary assistance, including military support.

The agreement is to last 10 years and go into effect within a day of the exchange by the instruments of ratification.

Commenting on the agreement at the request of an IF [INTERFAX] correspondent, aide to the Kyrgyz president Leonid Levitin expressed his opinion that the agreement would have definite significance in the strengthening of stability in the region as a whole. He said the document "characterizes both sides' desire to integrate and come together after the process of scattering and becoming sovereign states." The aid said both sides wish to "establish a strong and lasting union, which is catalyzed by the danger of military conflicts in the area. If the agreement is realized, it will guarantee that the 1990 Osh tragedy is not repeated."

Harmony of Views Noted

OW3009021092 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1931 GMT 29 Sep 92

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Kyrgyz and Uzbek presidents are very satisfied with the bilateral agreement on friendship, cooperation and mutual aid signed on Tuesday [29 September] in Tashkent, calling it an important stabilizing factor in the Middle Asian region. Speaking at a joint briefing in Tashkent, the capital of Uzbekistan, the heads of both states emphasized the complete harmony of their points of view on key political, economic, cultural, and humanitarian problems.

Akayev and Karimov declared that they did not support the idea of a federation or confederation of Middle Asian states. According to them, "today there is no need for any extra-state structures either in the region or in the CIS as a whole".

Speaking on the events in Tajikistan, both presidents declared that they would continue to render humanitarian aid to the neighboring republic. Akayev and Karimov pointed out that bringing order on the border between Afghanistan and Tajikistan would facilitate stabilization of situation in Tajikistan. According to Karimov, "the subversive forces intruding from Afghanistan bring great misfortune to Tajikistan".

Both presidents emphasized once more that Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan are ready to develop close relations with Russia. Karimov stressed that Russia is the main guarantor of the Treaty on collective security.

Leadership's Human Rights Violations Detailed

MK2909103292 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 26 Sep 92 p 3

[Report by Igor Rotar under the "Uzbekistan" rubric: "'Democratic Russia' and 'Birlik' Accuse Uzbek Leadership. News Conference Given by Democrats of Russia and Uzbekistan"]

[Text] Moscow City Soviet hosted a news conference 24 September given jointly by "Democratic Russia" and the "Birlik" ("Unity") people's movement of the Republic of Uzbekistan. "Birlik" was represented by: Cochairman Abdurakhim Pulatov, independent journalist Anvar Usmanov, and "Birlik" activist Abdumannob Pulatov. Present on behalf of "Democratic Russia" was Cochairman Lev Ponomarev. The journalists heard an opening speech from Abdurakhim Pulatov, who said, in particular: "The postcommunist government of Uzbekistan headed by President Islam Karimov is stepping up its unprecedented campaign of repression and persecution against the democratic forces. Never before in the republic has there been such an escalation of violence and lawlessness (with the exception of the 1930's and 1940's) organized by the authorities. Unlawful arrests and court examinations, searches of private houses without the appropriate authorization from the prosecutor, politically motivated dismissals from work, physical reprisals, the burning of homes—this is a by no means complete list of the methods to which the law-enforcement organs are resorting in the struggle against the democrats. The prosecutor's office frequently practices a form of pressure on democrat activists involving the extraction of a written undertaking from them 'not to leave their place of residence,' which is a legal absurdity...." The "Birlik" leader also cited the names of specific victims: Merciless beatings have been handed out to former USSR People's Deputy and member of the board of "Birlik" Pulat Akhunov and to INTERFAX correspondent Abdurashid Sharif.

In the opinion of Abdumannob Pulatov, chairman of the Uzbek society for the defense of human rights, there are at least two political detainees under arrest in the republic today: Chairman of the "Millimedzhlis" organization Babur Shakirov, who is charged with calling for the overthrow of the existing regime and for civil war, and Pulat Akhunov, who was arrested on a fabricated charge (petty hooliganism).

According to Russian Supreme Soviet Deputy and chairman of the subcommission for ties with social organizations Lev Ponomarev, who is cochairman of the "Democratic Russia" Coordinating Council, the recent reports coming out of Uzbekistan concerning violations in that country of universally recognized human rights and nonobservance of the norms of political struggle are causing serious concern: "In this connection the Coordinating Council of the 'Democratic Russia' movement deems it essential to address to the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet a proposal to preface the ratification of the treaty with the Republic of Uzbekistan with parliamentary hearings on the human rights situation in that state; to propose to the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet

chairman and other representatives of Russia in the Interparliamentary Assembly an appeal to their Uzbek colleagues for the appropriate explanations; and to request the Russian Federation president to exert all his authority to elucidate the situation and, if need be, to undertake the requisite steps at state level."

Then the "Birlik" representatives answered journalists' questions.

[Unidentified journalist] The Democratic Movement of Uzbekistan is acting in alliance with the Uzbek Islamic Revival Party. Such an alliance in Tajikistan has had tragic consequences. Do you not fear a repeat of the "Tajik scenario"?

[A. P.—not further identified] Yes of course such a danger exists, but we believe that our alliance with the Islamic Revival Party will be able to exert a beneficial influence on these politically very inexperienced people. I believe that this is possible in Uzbekistan, where the educational qualification is very high and the Islamic party occupies more moderate positions than in Tajikistan.

[Unidentified journalist] A large number of refugees is arriving in Uzbekistan from Tajikistan—will this not cause a national conflict between the two peoples? The danger of this is particularly great inasmuch as Samarkand and Bukhara have since time immemorial been home to Tajiks.

[Anvar Usmanov] Indeed, a large build-up of refugees is being observed in our republic, but all the same, there are no tent cities—people are simply going to their kinfolk. Moreover, there are Tajiks as well as Uzbeks among the arrivals. For the moment, fortunately, one can say with confidence that there is no danger of an outbreak of anti-Tajik sentiments in Bukhara and Samarkand.

Armenia

Defense Officials Assess Cease-Fire Agreement

NC2909200692 Yerevan Radio Yerevan International Service in Armenian 1630 GMT 29 Sep 92

[Report by Amasya Hovannisyan]

[Text] A press conference was held at the Armenian president's residence late at night on 28 September. It was organized by the Armenian Defense Ministry and was devoted to the cease-fire agreement signed some days ago at Sochi by the Armenian and Azerbaijani defense ministers at the initiative of Russian Defense Minister Grachev. Taking part in the press conference were Armenian Defense Minister Vazgen Sarkisyan; his deputy, Vahan Shirkhanyan; and Lieutenant-General Norat Ter-Grigoryants, commander of the Armenian Armed Forces.

Reporters from all the Armenian press agencies and the accredited reporters of the foreign agencies were invited to the press conference, the aim of which was to inform the public that this time, too, the Azerbaijani side is grossly violating the cease-fire agreement. Norat Ter-Grigoryants stressed that not only is the cease-fire in effect not being observed in certain sectors of the Armenian-Azerbaijani border, such as Krasnoselskiy, Vardenisskiy, Gorisskiy and Kapanskiy Rayons, but what is more, the military operations in Nagorno-Karabakh have assumed a more widespread nature.

According to him, either the political and military leaders of Azerbaijan are unable to control the subdivisions within the Azerbaijani Armed Forces structure, or they are doing this intentionally.

Gegam Arutyunyan, head of the Armenian Defense Ministry press information service, said:

[Begin Arutyunyan recording] Soon after the adoption of the agreement [words indistinct] the Azerbaijani side started to violate it and are violating it up this moment. Thus, shelling and military operations against a number of Armenian border regions have intensified. [end recording]

Next, Deputy Defense Minister Vahan Shirkhanyan made the following statement.

[Begin Shirkhanyan recording] I think that in signing the agreement in Sochi, the Azerbaijani defense minister had no intention at all of violating it in letter. He made precise calculations [words indistinct] and observed that the start of cease-fire was at 2400 on 25 September, and that the observers from the other republic would start working at the front as of 30 September. He has decided to use these 10 days [the cease-fire was signed on 19 September] to gain maximum advantage. That is, he has set the military objective of occupying as many new lands in Nagorno-Karabakh as possible—whereas the Azerbaijani president has set the objective of occupying all of Karabakh and the Lachin corridor in order to reach Armenia's borders—so that when the foreign observers arrive here, he can be ready to observe the cease-fire and comply with its provisions. This is evinced by the military operations conducted soon after the signing of the agreement, first of all by the (?shelling) of Lachin humanitarian corridor, the entire territory of Nagorno-Karabakh and Armenia's border regions.

At this very moment, a large-scale offensive is taking place in the north of Nagorno-Karabakh. I think that we must maintain our positions at all costs, protect our national interests in this war, and achieve cease-fire conditions that will be acceptable and advantageous for us. [end recording]

When I asked to what extent CIS Joint Armed Forces Commander Yevgeniy Shaposhnikov's statement to the effect that peacekeeping troops would be introduced shortly into the Armenian-Azerbaijani conflict zone and Nagorno-Karabakh was possible, Mr. Shirkhanyan replied that as yet, the CIS has no such troops and it takes time to set up such forces.

We asked the Armenian defense minister the reason for the absence of Nagorno-Karabakh Republic [NKR] representatives at the Sochi meeting. Vazgen Sarkisyan replied that he obtained authorization from the NKR Defense Committee, since the talks were exclusively of military nature. In the next stage of talks, when the political aspects of the situation will be examined, then Karabakh will participate as a separate side.

In conclusion, Armenian Defense Minister Vazgen Sarkisyan expressed the hope that despite everything, the cease-fire still might take hold.

Further Comment by Defense Officials

LD2909142692 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1000 GMT 29 Sep 92

[Text] A news conference has been held in Yerevan by Armenian Defense Minister Vazgen Sarkisyan. Armen Dulyan reports:

[Dulyan] The minister did not appear at the appointed time to meet the journalists, because he had been summoned to parliament, where the current situation in the region was being discussed in closed session. At the same time, I was able to have a conversation with Commander of the Armed Forces of Armenia Lieutenant General Norat Ter-Grigoryants, who had only just returned from Moscow where a protocol was signed containing a specific mechanism for implementing the Sochi agreement on a cease-fire. According to this protocol, 250 military observers from Russia, Ukraine, Belarus, Kazakhstan, and Georgia will arrive in Armenia and Azerbaijan from 30 September to 6 October. They will be stationed in five zones into which the conflict region has been divided, including all the sectors of the Armenian-Azerbaijan border, Nagorno-Karabakh, and all the Azerbaijan territory adjoining it. In the first stage, Ter-Grigoryants said, it is proposed to remove tanks, APC's [armored personnel carriers], artillery, and multiple rocket launcher systems to a distance of not less than 20 km from the front line. This will be followed by the dispersal of fighting formations. The commander of Armania's troops emphasized that the Russian Defense Ministry has rendered invaluable assistance in working out this protocol.

Incidentally, Defense Minister Vazgen Sarkisyan, after he had arrived late, referred positively to the role of Russia. He told the journalists that his meetings with Grachev and Barannikov had convinced him that Russia has a real interest in a cease-fire taking place between Armenia and Azerbaijan. And at the present stage, the minister said, our two republics are closer to an armistice than ever before. However, for the achievement of a real cease-fire the goodwill of both sides is needed, the head of the military department of Armenia emphasized. Armen Dulyan, SNARK news agency, specially for Russia's Radio news service.

Radio Says Azeris Continuing Karabakh Offensive

NC2909183192 Yerevan Armenia's Radio First Program Network in Armenian 1300 GMT 29 Sep 92

[Text] Reports coming from Nagorno-Karabakh Republic today confirm once again that the Azerbaijanis are pursuing a militaristic course. They sign agreements on a cease-fire, but then carry on with large-scale military operations.

After launching a massive artillery and Grad rocket shelling at 1600 on 28 September, the Azerbaijani formations went into an offensive all along the combat front in Mardakertskiy Rayon. The Azerbaijani armored column moved towards the village of (Kichan). Fierce battles continued at the approaches of the village until late at night. The Armenian self-defense forces withstood the pressure of the Azerbaijani formations and forced them to withdraw to their initial positions.

In the meantime, the Azerbaijanis subjected the village of Vank to artillery and rocket shelling.

The Azerbaijani Army subunits based in the previously occupied Chldran have been shelling Kichan and the village of [placename indistinct] in Askeranskiy Rayon as of this morning.

The Azerbaijani news agencies put out endless reports to the effect that allegedly, the Armenian forces attacked the Azerbaijani village of Chldran. Given the fact that in the last few days the Armenian detachments in Nagorno-Karabakh are satisfied only with self-defense, the Azerbaijani media did not explain how the Armenian village of Chldran was occupied by the Azerbaijanis [words indistinct].

The Azerbaijani armed formations attacked the Armenian self-defense forces' positions near the village of Vaguas in Mardakertskiy Rayon on the night of 28 September. The attack was checked. The Azerbaijanis withdrew towards Getavan.

The Armenian side sustained (?12) dead and 19 wounded in Mardakertskiy Rayon on 28 September. At least (?36) Azerbaijani soldiers were killed.

The Lachin humanitarian corridor was shelled from Kelbadzharskiy Rayon until late at night on 28 September. According to the situation on the morning of 29 September, traffic through that corridor was continuing.

The village of Edillu in Gadrutskiy Rayon has been shelled from Fizulinskiy Rayon since 1000 this morning.

Opposition Still Urging President's Resignation

OW2909181892 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1731 GMT 29 Sep 92

[Report prepared by Andrey Pershin, Andrey Petrovskiy, and Vladimir Shishlin; edited by Boris Grishchenko; from the "Presidential Bulletin" feature; item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] In a recent exclusive interview with Interfax (the full text of which was published in the September 21st edition of "Presidential Bulletin"-No.164), Armenian President Levon Ter- Petrosyan stressed the leadership's desire for the opposition to take an active part in the formation of the state. In his opinion, the first signs that such collaboration is taking place with the opposition already exist. Here, Ashot Navasardian, one of the most influential leaders of the parliamentary opposition bloc "National Union" and Chairman of the Republican Party, gave an Interfax reporter his comments on the stance being adopted by the head of state.

As Navasardian pointed out, "the opposition in Armenia does not intend to withdraw its demands for the resignation of the president and his "unpopular" policy-makers. The departure of representatives of the two major Liberal Democrat and "Dashnaktsutiun" parties from the "National Union" does not affect the bloc's position in any way", he stressed.

Navsardian suggested that the authorities were creating "the illusion that they were about to change direction", by including in the composition of the National Security Council under the president and his loyal Armenian National Movement representatives members of the Democrat and Dashnaktsutiun parties. This step was preventing Armenia's leaders from justifying the confidence placed in them by the people, in Navsardian's opinion. "The National Security Council is a purely consultative body, and resolutions passed by it are not binding. Any vitally important decisions concerning the people of Armenia are, in fact, made by a group of individuals headed by the president, and not by the security council", he added.

Navasardian considers the "Armenian president's inflexible approach to internal policy and continual concessions in foreign policy" to be "paradoxical". He described Ter-Petrosyan's dithering over the formation of a national armed forces as typical of such a "dual" position.

IF [INTERFAX] Note: In his interview with Interfax, Levon Ter- Petrosyan drew particular attention to the uncompromising opposition's lack of any kind of positive programme. This was clearly demonstrated, in his opinion, when the opposition declined to agree to a referendum on confidence in the president. Ter- Petrosyan described the attempt to interpret the demonstrations which took place outside the presidential palace in summer as a strengthening of opposition influence on public opinion as not totally serious.

Azerbaijan

Gaydar Visits Baku To Discuss CIS, Trade, Debt

NC3009122692 Baku TURAN in English 1027 GMT 30 Sep 92

[Text] Baku, 30 Sep (TURAN)—We regard Azerbaijan as the most important economic partner, and Russia would never use its economic key factors to exert pressure on the republic, said the Russian Acting Premier Yegor Gaydar today during the meeting with the Azeri ministers.

Naturally, we would appreciate the Azeri entry into the CIS as a full-member or an observer, but even if Azerbaijan will refuse the CIS membership that is not going to poison the Azeri-Russian relations. We shall treat any decision by the Azeri Government with deep respect, outlined he.

Touching upon the reached agreement on intergovernmental trade and economic co-operation, Yegor Gaydar said this agreement creates the most favourable conditions to further trade and economic relations among the establishments of our states.

Up to the present, the question on monetary settlements among the two states remained the most principle and hard one. But the agreement, signed today, provides opening of Azerbaijani accounts in Russian banks in the regions, where Azerbaijan has his economic interests.

Gaydar said that would help to settle the question on paying off the Russian outstanding debt for the Azeri deliveries.

The aim of the agreement is to grant a right to Russian and Azeri enterprises to build relations with each other by themselves, proceeding from their mutual interests and without somebody else's bidding, declared Gaydar.

Russian premier stressed the point that signing of the Azeri- Russian custom agreement would simplify and stimulate trade and economic links among both states. Besides that, it was outlined that the need had arisen to act in concord in the question of bank's rates of interest to ease settlements among Russia and Azerbaijan.

[In a report on Gaydar's arrival in Azerbaijan, Baku AZERINFORM in English at 0805 GMT on 30 September adds: "Mr. Yegor Gaydar, deputy minister of the Russian Federation, arrived in Baku on one-day official visit this morning. The deputy minister was met by the prime minister of Azerbaijan and other government officials in Bina Airport. The airport was decorated by national flags of Azerbaijan and the Russian Federation."]

To Discuss Common Currency Pact

LD3009112492 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0807 GMT 30 Sep 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Ivan Ivanov]

[Text] Baku, 30 Sep—A delegation of the Russian Federation led by Acting Prime Minister Yegor Gaydar arrived this morning in Baku, where Russian-Azerbaijani talks are to be held and where a number of bilateral economic documents are to be signed.

It is planned to sign an intergovernmental agreement today on trade and economic cooperation between the two countries in 1993, stipulating in particular that reciprocal supplies will be made at contractual rates based on world prices. Agreements on free trade and the reciprocal establishment of trade missions have also been prepared. They are standard for all the CIS countries and also Estonia and Georgia.

During the Russian-Azerbaijani talks, an agreement on a single monetary system and coordinated monetary-credit and currency policy for the Russian Federation and Republic of Azerbaijan is expected to be discussed and prepared for signing. The agreement states, in part, that on the territory of the states concluding the agreement "the common legal tender is the ruble, issued by the Central Bank of the Russian Federation." On the territory of Azerbaijan, according to the draft, the manat, issued by the National Bank of Azerbaijan within the margins of the overall ruble emission, is the legal tender, along with the ruble.

President Says Republic May Join CIS

LD2909190492 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1304 GMT 28 Sep 92

[By AZERINFORM correspondents Sevindzh Abdullayeva and Natan Barsky for TASS]

[Text] Baku September 28 TASS—Azerbaijan may join the Commonwealth of Independent States in the near future, according to the republican president.

"At present, it might be right that Azerbaijan is not joining the Commonwealth of Independent States. But it is quite possible that, say, in four months we shall have to join it," Abulfaz Elchibey said answering questions of readers of the AZADLYG newspaper on Monday [28 September].

The president did not disclose how the situation might change in four months.

Although the world recognised the Commonwealth as a necessary formation for the transitional period, CIS may become a purely economic and political community. It is not excluded that it may collapse in future and another community would emerge on its place which would be called the Commonwealth of Independent States of Asia, the president said.

Elchibey does not exclude the danger that the Commonwealth might develop into another Soviet Union which would mean "new chains for Azerbaijan." "I do not exclude such a danger and I am sure there should be a cautious and balanced approach to the issue," he added.

When Azeri leaders speak about joining the Commonwealth that should not be viewed as the final decision, but rather as a personal opinion. Anyway, it is the parliament to decide on the issue, Elchibey stressed, adding that he, as

president, has "the right to veto, which he will use in case he disagrees with the decision of the national assembly."

Elchibey Advocates Conference on Armenian Dispute

NC2909211492 Baku Radio Baku Network in Azeri 1700 GMT 29 Sep 92

[Text] President Abulfaz Elchibey has disclosed the following:

In compliance with the UN Charter, the provisions of the CSCE Final Accord, and the Helsinki declaration, the leaders of Azerbaijan reiterate their commitment to the principle of finding political solutions to international problems and respect for each and every peaceful effort aimed at removing the dispute between Azerbaijan and Armenia. We regard the agreement reached in Sochi to impose a cease-fire in the military conflict between Azerbaijan and Armenia as only one of the steps taken in the complex process of finding a political solution to the dispute within the CSCE framework.

In view of this, we believe that the holding of a competent conference by the heads of state of Azerbaijan, Armenia, Russia, Kazakhstan, Ukraine, and Belarus, including the CSCE representatives, will be useful.

Elchibey Meets UK Trade Secretary; Views Armenia

OW2909181392 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1729 GMT 29 Sep 92

[Report prepared by Andrey Pershin, Andrey Petrovskiy, and Vladimir Shishlin; edited by Boris Grishchenko; from "Presidential Bulletin"—following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Azerbaijan will continue its endeavours to gain a peaceful and political solution to its conflict with Armenia, and to resolve the Karabakh problem with the help of mediation involving international organizations, such as the CSCE," said President Aboulfaz Elchibey during his Monday's [28 September] meeting with the head of Britain's trade council Michael Heseltine. So far Baku has no reason to decline CSCE services, the President pointed out. Nevertheless A. Elchibey said that Azerbaijan will never endorse the annexation of part of its territory.

According to the President, the efforts to settle the conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan must be exerted strictly in the framework of international law and in conformity with principles stipulated in the U.N. Charter and CSCE provisions. A. Elchibey believes that a successful solution to the Karabakh problem could be possible if such influential representatives of world politics, as U.S. President George Bush, British Prime Minister John Major, and Russian President Boris Yeltsin could exert influence on developments in the region and coerce Armenia which took "an intractable stand".

Britain, said M. Heseltine, has officially proclaimed its recognition of Azerbaijan's territorial integrity. Britain has no doubt, he pointed out, that Nagorno-Karabakh is an integral part of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

M. Heseltine gave A. Elchibey a personal message from Prime Minister John Major, inviting the president to visit Britain any time convenient to him.

At the meeting with the chairman of Azerbaijan's parliament Isa Gambarov the British guest's attention was called to the fact that the war against Azerbaijan launched more than 4 years ago poses a great obstacle to economic reforms in the country. The two sides discussed in detail the prospects for bilateral cooperation, particularly in petrochemistry and oil extraction.

IF [INTERFAX] Note: During his visit to Baku M. Heseltine signed with Azerbaijan's First Deputy Prime Minister Vakhid Ahmedov two protocols on economic cooperation. Britain undertook to invest funds in oil extraction, chemical, petrochemical and other industries in Azerbaijan. The press center of the cabinet of ministers said that under the protocols British capitals invested in Azerbaijan's economy will reach several tens of millions of dollars.

Minister Says 'Third Party' Bombed Stepanakert

NC2909162992 Baku TURAN in English 1233 GMT 29 Sep 92

[Text] Baku (29 Sept) TURAN—Azeri Defence Minister Rakhim Gaziyev declared at the parliament today that Armenian side had repeatedly violated the Sochi peaceful agreement since the document came into force. In this connection, the minister sent messages to Yeltsin, Grachev, and Barannikov, in which the established acts of violations were stated.

R. Gaziyev pressed his disagreement to bringing of peacekeeping forces of the CIS or Russia into Nagorno-Karabakh. Under the Sochi agreement, such an action could not be implemented without consent of all sides.

By the end of his speech, the defence minister made a sensational statement running that the Azeri aviation had not pounded the town of Khankendi [Azeri name for Stepanakert] of late. The minister said: "This is a handiwork of the third party."

Government, Indonesia Establish Diplomatic Ties

NC2909153992 Baku ASSA-IRADA in English 0859 GMT 29 Sep 92

[Text] Baku, 29 Sep (ASSA-IRADA)—Diplomatic relations established between Azerbaijan Republic and Republic of Indonesia.

The corresponding protocol was signed by Azerbaijani Plenipotentiary in Russia, authorized by the republican government, Hikmet Gadzhade and Indonesian Ambassador in Moscow Mr. Djanwar Djani, Azerbaijan's Foreign Ministry reported.

Radical Leader Explains Party's Aims, Activity

OW2709142292 Baku Azerbaycan Radio Televiziyasi Television Network in Russian 1540 GMT 24 Sep 92

[Interview with Malik Sharifov, leader of the Radical Party of Azerbaijan, by unidentified correspondent; place, date not given; from the "Telefaks" newscast—recorded]

[Text] [Correspondent] In January, the 6th congress of the Transnational Radical Party, about which we know very little, will continue its work in Rome. It will continue the work it began at the May congress, in which the Radical Party of Azerbaijan took part. I am talking to Malik Sharifov, one of the party leaders.

Malik, we know so little about it. What was the congress, and could you briefly tell us about your party?

[Sharifov] The 6th congress of the Transnational Radical Party began its work on 28 April and had not finished it by May. It did not finish for the simple reason that there was an additional item on the congress agenda. The item involved an issue that, I think, worries the world community, and us in particular, because it concerns Karabakh.

We took to the congress a photographic exhibition titled, "Four Years of War." Our exhibition was joined by others on the former Yugoslavia and Israel. It naturally struck a chord with former Yugoslavs, Ukrainians, and Moldovans, and they voted to include an extra item on the agenda: How to avert interethnic conflicts, how to localize them, and how to resolve them. This has become a world concern, because the spark that ignited in Karabakh exists in the former Yugoslavia, Moldova, and Georgia. I think that if nothing is done to promptly localize it, the spark will spread further afield.

[Correspondent] And do you think the January congress of Radicals will take this issue further?

[Sharifov] It is already on the agenda, and specific work is already being done by members of the Radical Party in Armenia. Admittedly, the party there is very small, because it believes no one should be forced to join. For example, in Azerbaijan we have 220 members but in Armenia membership is nearer 20.

[Correspondent] A last question about the party. Is it correct that in general, you do not believe in confronting evil with active resistance?

[Sharifov] This basic tenet is linked to the ideas of Mahatma Gandhi, and that is why it is not accidental that our party ticket, and our party banner, bears his emblem. [Video shows a poster with an emblem of Mahatma Gandhi]

[Correspondent] Thank you for joining me, and I would like to wish you success in the work of this congress, which I believe will take place, and that you will carry the message to like-minded people in Italy, and elsewhere in the world.

[Sharifov] Thank you.

British Airways To Train Pilots, Build Airport

NC2909161292 Baku ASSA-IRADA in English 0859 GMT 29 Sep 92

[Text] Baku, 29 Sep (ASSA-IRADA)—One of the biggest air companies in the world—British Airlines will assist to complete the construction of Baku Airport. This is one of the items of the intention protocol signed by British Trade Minister Michael Heseltine and Azerbaijan's authorities as ASSA-IRADA was told by Adalyat Aliyev, the director of the "Azerbaijan Hava Yollary" state concern. The British experts are reported to train Azeri pilots and to help in good servicing of the republican airlines. In its turn, Azerbaijan's side plans to buy British airplanes.

Georgia

Shevardnadze Illness Postpones Council Meeting

LD2909135392 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1315 GMT 29 Sep 92

[By ITAR-TASS string correspondent Mikhail Kasoyev]

[Text] Tbilisi September 29 TASS—High temperature did not allow Georgian leader Eduard Shevardnadze to attend a meeting of the State Council where he had to report on the results of his meetings in New York and Moscow.

The State Council postponed its meeting for indefinite time in connection with the sudden illness of its chairman.

On Monday [28 September] Shevardnadze, en route from U.N. General Assembly in New York, met Russian President Boris Yeltsin in Moscow to discuss Russian-Georgian relations after the Russian Parliament denounced Georgian actions in Abkhazia.

Shevardnadze Talks With NATO Delegation

PM2509103992 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 23 Sep 92 p 1

[Report by S. Chernykh: "Georgia Seeks Contacts with NATO. NATO Seeks Contacts with Georgia"]

[Text] Tbilisi—The NATO delegation which arrived in Georgia 16 September has completed its work there. In the course of the visit a meeting with Georgian State Council Chairman E. Shevardnadze took place.

The NATO officials' visit coincided with the order to disband the Air Force's 19th Army, which will leave the Caucasus as early as the first quarter of 1993. The Transcaucasus Military District is being gradually wound up.

During a discussion with the delegation's leader, Christopher Daniel, Shevardnadze said that the group of forces which has been created instead of the Transcaucasus Military District will still be withdrawn from the Caucasus in the coming two years and "it is therefore necessary even now to act as quickly as possible to broaden contacts with NATO."

Russian military experts, in analyzing the negotiations' progress, have paid particular attention to what Shevardnadze said about creating a West European news agency in Georgia which will supply objective news to the West from the region of the Caucasus. Russian Army intelligence says it can imagine what kind of information this will be and who it will be supplied to.

The very same experts consider that after the last Russian subunit has been withdrawn, NATO troops will immediately fill the vacuum which has formed. In this way, Russia

will lose its bridgehead in the Transcaucasus, for which it has fought for several centuries.

Gagra Commandant: Caucasian Fighters Replaced

OW2909195992 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1926 GMT 29 Sep 92

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] According to Gagra City Commandant Badri Pirtskheliani, volunteers from the Confederation of Caucasian Mountain Peoples who were directed to return home are being replace by the same numbers of armed Caucasians arriving in Abkhazia by sea. The Commandant said they are arriving by way of "Comet" passenger ships from Sochi to Gudauti.

Mr. Pirtskheliani emphasized in an Interfax interview that as long as there are no control posts in Sochi and Gudauty, it will be very difficult to halt the flow of Caucasian volunteers into Abkhazia.

Roadside Mine Injures Sukhumi Commander

LD2909161892 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1500 GMT 29 Sep 92

[By freelance ITAR-TASS correspondent Mikhail Kasoyev]

[Text] Tbilisi, 29 September—According to reports coming from Abkhazia, a car carrying the recently appointed military commandant of the town of Sukhumi, Gudzhar Kurashvili, and two officers accompanying him, ran over a mine in the village of Tamysh in Ochamchir Rayon. All three sustained injuries of varying degrees of seriousness and have been hospitalized. More detailed reports on the circumstances of the incident have not yet arrived.

Russian Border Troops To Leave by Mid-1994

OW3009130192 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1145 GMT 30 Sep 92

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The head of the Central Border Protection Administration of Georgia, Col. Otar Gumberidze, told the newspaper Na Rubezhakh Rodiny (On the Motherland's Border) published by the Transcaucasian Border Guard District that Russia will withdraw its border troops from Georgia in 1993-94.

He said the last units of the Russian troops will leave Georgia on May 7, 1994, an anniversary of the Georgian State Council's decision on the forming of Georgia's own border troops. At present Georgia is "physically unable" to guard its border with Turkey, Gumberidze said. Recently Georgia suggested to Russia that they jointly finance the protection of that section of the border until the Russian troops leave. Georgia is laying no claim to any territory in any of the neighboring states, Gumberidze said.

Government Decree Restricts Exports, Imports

AU2809145592 Tbilisi SVOBODNAYA GRUZIYA in Russian 8 Sep 92 p 2,3

["Republic of Georgia Government Decree (and Statute) on Provisional Rules for Restricting and Licensing the Export and Import of Goods (Works, Services) on the territory of the Republic of Georgia" issued in Tbilisi on 26 August]

[Text] With the aim of forming the basis of the economic sovereignty of the Republic of Georgia, liberalizing foreign economic activity, creating a single mechanism for its regulation, international commercial and economic cooperation, and fulfilling the Republic of Georgia's intergovernmental agreements, the Republic of Georgia Government decrees:

1. To adopt a single set of rules for restricting and licensing the export and import of goods on the territory of the Republic of Georgia.

The validity of this decree extents to the export and import of goods in the Republic of Georgia's trade with any state if the other state is not stipulated in an intergovernmental agreement of the Republic of Georgia.

The rules adopted by this decree for licensing and restricting the export and import of goods extend to all subjects of economic activity in the Republic of Georgia irrespective of the form of their ownership and place of registration except for joint enterprises if they are exporting their own goods.

2. To ratify:

—a statute on the rules for licensing and restricting the export and import of goods (works, services) of the Republic of Georgia;

—a list of goods whose export from the Republic of Georgia has been temporarily prohibited;

—a list of goods that are being exported temporarily within established quotas;

—a list of goods that are being imported temporarily under licenses.

3. The export and import of goods that are not included in the supplement to this decree are to be restricted only in accordance with decrees of the Republic of Georgia Provisional Government.

4. To establish that:

—quotas on the export of the most important types of goods (works, services) from the Republic of Georgia are to be fixed by the Republic of Georgia Ministry of Economy and ratified by the Republic of Georgia Government;

—licenses for ensuring the exchange of goods with republics of the former Soviet Union within the established quotas are issued by the corresponding branch ministries;

—licenses for exporting and importing [goods] to other countries in the world within the established quotas are issued by the Republic of Georgia State Committee for Foreign Economic Relations.

5. To entrust the Republic of Georgia Ministry of Finances with presenting to the Republic of Georgia Provisional Government the Statute "on the Rules for Submitting Licenses to the State Customs Department and for Controlling Their Use" before 1 August 1992 [date as published].

6. To entrust the Republic of Georgia State Customs Department with keeping a strict record of the export and import of licensed goods and to present statistical materials to the republic's government and the Socioeconomic Information Committee every quarter.

This point comes into force once the customs have been prepared and the form of the corresponding document has been elaborated, additional information on which will be given in the press and other media.

7. "To expand the existing rules on customs formalities and declarations when carrying out export-import operations with the former Soviet republics." Forwarding enterprises, organizations, and private owners of transportation facilities are forbidden from accepting freight for export from the Republic of Georgia without the permission of the Republic of Georgia customs organs.

8. Until the customs legislation of the Republic of Georgia has been brought into force, in the event of the terms of this decree being violated, the guilty parties will be brought to account in accordance with the Customs Code of the former USSR and the corresponding legislation of the Republic of Georgia.

9. The owners of those transportation facilities who transport freight in violation of the established rules are to pay a fine in favor of the budget amounting to the value of the transported freight in the contract. Organs of the Republic of Georgia State Taxation Service are entrusted with obtaining the fine on the basis of rulings from organs of the Republic of Georgia Procurator's Office and on the recommendation of the customs organs.

The aforementioned fine is to be allocated as follows:

to the republican budget—60 percent;

to the local budget—25 percent;

to the Republic of Georgia state customs organs—15 percent.

[Signed] T. Sigua, acting chairman of the Republic of Georgia Government, acting prime minister

G. Beridze, acting manager of the State Office of the Republic of Georgia Government

[Dated] 26 August 1992, Tbilisi **Statute on the Provisional Rules for Restricting and Licensing the Export and Import of Goods (Works, Services) in the Republic of Georgia**

1. This statute determines the rules for restricting and licensing the export and import of goods (works, services) in the Republic of Georgia.

2. On the territory of Georgia there exists a single set of rules on quotas and licensing, whose basis is a list of goods for which licenses are being issued that is attached to this statute, and a general set of rules on fixing and allocating quotas and issuing licenses.

3. Quotas on the export of the most important types of goods (works, services) from the Republic of Georgia are fixed by the Republic of Georgia Ministry of Economy in agreement with the corresponding ministries of the Republic of Georgia. The stated quotas are to be ratified by the Republic of Georgia Government.

Quotas are divided into:

—quotas ensuring the exchange of goods exported to republics of the former Soviet Union;

—export quotas on remaining goods exported to other countries in the world.

The Republic of Georgia Ministry of Economy is to communicate the established quotas to the Republic of Georgia Committee for Foreign Economic Relations and the corresponding branch ministries that are empowered to issue the appropriate licenses:

a) licenses for the export and import of goods into the republics of the former Soviet Union are to be issued by the corresponding branch ministries;

b) licenses for the export and import of goods to other countries in the world are to be issued by the Committee for Foreign Economic Relations.

4. Applicants may be issued with general or single-use licenses.

General licenses are to be issued on the basis of a decision of the Republic of Georgia Government.

5. Licenses are to be issued to subjects of economic activity irrespective of the form of their ownership. The issue of licenses to other juridical or physical persons is forbidden. The recipient of licenses is to pay a tax in accordance with the established rules.

6. The applicant is to pay:

a) on receiving a single-use license—3,000 (three thousand) rubles [R];

b) on receiving a general license—R50,000 (fifty thousand).

7. Licenses are issued on the basis of applications. Applications are to be accompanied by:

—a certificate from the republic's Committee for Socioeconomic Information bestowing classifier codes [kodov klassifikatora] on enterprises and organizations;

—signed or initialed export, import or barter contracts (an explanation of the prices is to be attached to the contracts; goods circulation in a barter contact is to be determined in hard currency);

—confirmation of the submission of a copy of the contract (export, import, barter) from the servicing bank;

—a bank receipt proving the license fee has been transferred to the state budget;

—in the case of the export of those goods listed in Supplements No. 2 and No. 3:

—a certificate showing the origin of the licensed goods and that the quantity of the stated goods is not included among the quotas stipulated in the government treaty.

A license is issued depending on the goods classification of foreign economic activity in accordance with the codes of the goods.

Applicants are responsible for the authenticity of the certificates accompanying the application and its supplements.

8. Licenses are issued for one type of goods irrespective of the quantity of items of goods shown in the contract. In individual cases, general licenses are allowed for several types of goods if they form part of one subgroup of goods.

9. General and single-use licenses give one the right to export and import goods in accordance with the time limits established in them.

A general license to carry out export and import operations for one calendar year is issued to applicants on the basis of the long- term intergovernmental obligations of the Republic of Georgia.

In accordance with general licenses, export or import operations may be conducted in respect of one or several transactions. A single-use license is issued to an applicant for one year in order to carry out an export or import operation in respect of one transaction.

At the justifiable request of the applicant, the duration of the license can be extended. An extension of the license is to be certified in written form.

10. A decision on the issue of a license is to be adopted by the Republic of Georgia State Committee for Foreign Economic Relations and corresponding branch ministries within 15 days of receipt of the application.

A refusal to issue a license should be explained and sent to the applicant in written form.

11. The State Committee for Foreign Economic Relations and the corresponding branch ministries are to register the used quotas and the licenses issued, which are to be entered on a separate page of the registration book for corresponding juridical and physical persons.

The use of quotas and the issuing of licenses are also to be entered in special registration books.

Each entry in the register and also any changes to it are to be certified by the State Committee for Foreign Economic Relations or by the signature of workers from the corresponding branch ministries who have the right to do this and by a special stamp.

12. All surnames in the registration book should be numbered, bound with string, and authenticated by a stamp of the State Committee for Foreign Economic Relations or the corresponding branch ministries and by the signature of responsible workers.

An entry in the register is made in abbreviated form and, it should be pointed out, the document on which it was based should be indicated. Corrections to the entry should be certified.

13. All documents presented for registration are to be kept in the State Committee for Foreign Economic Relations and in the corresponding branch ministries in separate files.

14. Exporters are to load goods only after they have received an export license.

15. In the event of this statute being violated, the Republic of Georgia State Committee for Foreign Economic Relations and the corresponding branch ministries have the right to suspend or annul the licenses issued.

16. In the event of their violating this statute, subjects of economic activity are to be brought to account in accordance with the existing legislation of the Republic of Georgia.

Finance Minister Views New Currency, Budget

AU3009085392 Tbilisi SAKARTVELOS RESPUBLIKA in Georgian 15 Sep 92 p 2

[Report by Nino Tatrulaidze: "Vazha Jinjikhadze: 'The National Budget Is a Reliable Compass That Points to the Country's Progress'"]

[Excerpt] **What are the prospects for the introduction of a national currency? This question is of concern to many people in Georgia today. The participants at a series of lectures for the leading workers of the organs of economic and local management attached to the Center for Social Administration of the republic's government who, on 10 September, had a meeting with Vazha Jinjikhadze, Republic of Georgia minister of finance, in particular, were unable to remain indifferent to this question.**

The minister said: "The introduction of a national currency is a very serious problem. Printing banknotes in any country and bringing them into the republic is not a technical question that can be easily resolved. The introduction of a national currency is a question of the greatest economic and political importance. Specifically, it is a matter of monetary reform, the introduction of a new monetary system. What is of great importance is the value that this money will have within the country. Another fact that needs to be taken into account is how we are to make settlements with foreign countries and the republics of the former Soviet Union. It is necessary for our currency to be recognized and for it to have a purchasing power. In order to achieve this, we need to have a developed export base.

The creation of a national currency requires deep economic analysis. A Georgian currency should be introduced only when we can be sure that it will not lose its value within a couple of months, as has been the case in certain republics of the former USSR. The Georgian Government and State Council are working on this question."

Then, Batoni [Georgian polite form of address] Vazha Jinjikhadze spoke about the serious financial situation that had taken shape in the republic and the difficulties of the national budget.

He said: "The bitter truth is that Georgia today is faced with complex political, economic, and social problems. One can say without exaggeration that the national economy is experiencing a profound crisis; it is in a catastrophic situation. The main reasons for all this are the political troubles, the disruption of established economic ties, the nonelaboration of methods and forms of transferring to new market relations, and principally, the sharp decline in output. Unfortunately, not a single strategic program of economic reform has been elaborated to this day. Naturally, such an extreme situation requires radical measures to be implemented. However, real steps have been taken: The first stage of economic reform has begun. The green light has been given to the privatization of state property, the liberalization of prices and trade, land reform, and so forth."

The minister analyzed the reasons for the nonfulfillment of [measures concerning] budgetary income. He said that the complex situation that had taken shape in the national budget was conditioned by many subjective factors as well. These include bad organization and lack of discipline in economic management.

Vazha Jinjikhadze then said: "A clear example of this is that in tense budgetary conditions, ministries, departments, and organs of local administration are not implementing effective measures to improve their budgets. In all respectable countries, budgetary and financial policy is kept within strict limits and it would be unforgivable to stray outside them. Here, however, it has become almost fashionable to interfere unjustifiably and illegally in the national budget. I do not think it is right that such a giant enterprise as the Rustaveli metallurgical factory and the Kutaisi automobile works should be exempt from taxation. Enterprises and organizations frequently cover up their income and import and sell nonregistered goods. The collapse of [the system of] recording and reporting in the nonstate sector and the aimless work of control organs also play a certain role in the nonfulfillment of instructions pertaining to the national budget.

A strong, scientifically substantiated, and realistic budget is necessary to protect Georgian independence and for socioeconomic restoration. It is, after all, a reliable compass that points to the country's progress. We have to have hope that Georgia, a country which is building a democratic and rule-of-law state, will definitely resolve these problems as well.

During the lectures, the Center for Social Administration organized an opinion poll to establish the popularity rating of the heads of ministries, departments, and institutions. Here are the results in percentages.

This is the popularity rating of the heads of the republic's ministries and committees as established on 11 September:

Aleksandr Chikvaidze [minister of foreign affairs]—90.3

Aleksandr Kavsadze [deputy prime minister; chairman of the State Committee for Interethnic Relations and the Defense of Human Rights]—54.8

Kakha Asatiani [minister of sports and tourism]—53.3

Tengiz Kitovani [minister of defense]—52.4

Valerian Advadze [chairman of the State Committee on State Property Management]—52.4

Roman Gventsadze—[minister of internal affairs]—47.6

Vazha Jinjikhadze—44.4

Nodar Chitanava [minister of agriculture]—43.1

Joni Khetsuriani [minister of justice]—41.0

Archil Gogelia [minister of information; chairman of the television and radio department]—40.3

Omar Vardzelashvili [minister of the economy]—34.7

Aleksandr Chkheidze [minister of transportation]—32.3

Teimuraz Dvali [chief of the tax inspectorate]—32.3

Besik Jugheli [minister of industry]—27.4

Guram Mirianashvili [minister of architecture and construction]—27.4

Gucha Kvaratskhelia [minister of education]—27.4

Irakli Megreladze [minister of public health and social security]—26.6

Nodar Kakulia [manager of the national bank]—26.0

Irakli Zhordania [minister of science and technology]—19.4

Vazha Gujabidze [minister of labor, social protection, and demography]—16.9

Anzor Chlikadze [minister of the food and processing industry]—15.8

Levan Topuria [minister of material resources]—15.3

Nikoloz Sharashenidze [minister of trade]—13.7

Ioseb Tsiskarishvili [chairman of the State Committee for Foreign Economic Relations]—13.7

David Nakani [minister of environmental protection]—12.9

Oleg Keshelava [minister of communications]—12.7

David Maghadze [minister of culture]—12.1 [passage omitted]

Estonia

Distribution of Seats in New State Assembly

LD3009061992 Tallinn Radio Estonia in English 1620 GMT 28 Sep 92

[Text] We'll begin with the election results, because the election commission of the Republic of Estonia confirmed today officially the list of the members of the new Estonian parliament, the State Assembly. Certain difficulties are predicted at forming the new [words indistinct] at the State Assembly because none of the factions have the majority of votes required to pass the decision.

The State Assembly was elected on 20 September. As a result of the voting the [word indistinct] mandate [words indistinct] between the factions as follows:

The (?election coalition) Fatherland received 21.6 percent of the votes and has got 29 seats in the parliament. The Secure Home coalition received 13.7 percent of the votes and got 17 seats in the new parliament, with Popular Front coalition 12.4 percent of the votes and that's 16 seats. The Moderates received 9.8 percent of the votes, and that makes 12 seats in the parliament. The Estonian National Independence Party received 8.3 percent of the votes and that's 10 seats. The Independent Royalists received 7.1 percent of the votes and eight seats. The Estonian Citizen coalition received 6.9 percent of the votes, that's eight seats in the parliament. The Greens received 2.6 percent of the votes and one place and also the Free Entrepreneurs Party got one seat in the parliament.

A coalition based on the platform of the right-wing bloc Fatherland is expected to be created during the formation of the government. It is likely that due to delays in the formation of the government, the country's budget for 1993 will not be completed till 1 January.

Under the election program of the Fatherland coalition, an historian, (?Mart Laar), was proposed as the future prime minister. The current prime minister, Tiit Vahi, refused to take part in the new government.

The tax policy of the Fatherland bloc proposes the reduction of income tax for individuals and the introduction of a proportion tax for enterprises. Fatherland intends to speed up the country's privatization program. It is expected to start implementation of basic steps to the (?private) reform on 1 May 1993. The bloc's foreign economic guidelines are aimed at the creation of favorable conditions for foreign investment. Estonia should liberalize its foreign trade and customs regulations, use advantages of its geographic location, and develop the country's trade.

The Moderates agreed to participate in the negotiations on forming the new government coalition. The Moderates election (?coalition) gave a consent to take part in the negotiations on forming the government coalition initiated by the Fatherland. The Moderates are ready to take upon themselves the new Cabinet's agriculture and social policies and the (?onus) of reform. They decided to form a joint Moderates group in the State Assembly and give other political forces an opportunity to join the (?national coalition).

Fatherland Official Leads Pack for New Premier

WA2909192892 Helsinki HELSINGIN SANOMAT in Finnish 22 Sep 92 p C3

[By Anna Paljakka]

[Text] Most touted as a candidate for Estonia's new prime minister is Mart Laar, who belongs to the Christian Democratic wing of the Fatherland party [Isamaa]. Just 31 years old, Laar is a conservative-minded research historian who as a politician began to push for freeing up the economy. Many believe someone with an understanding of economics is now needed to head the government.

Laar drafted Isamaa's campaign plan, the theme of which was "clean out the rascals." He was often seen on the campaign trail waving a broom. Laar concedes that Isamaa's campaign failed to deal specifically with issues and that it did not even declare a break with the past.

The purging will start only after the elections.

"We do not want to see all the old communists purged from the government," Laar said to HELSINGIN SANOMAT on Monday [21 September]. "We just want everyone to have the same opportunities."

Laar estimated that around one-third of Estonia's bureaucracy should be trimmed. All government officials will have to fight to keep their posts and prove their competence.

Likewise, Marju Lauristin, leader of the Social Democrats, who now belongs to the Moderates, sees trimming the bureaucracy as necessary.

"Not because of politics, but rather for reasons of efficiency," he told HELSINGIN SANOMAT. "It is time once and for all to go beyond the era of Soviet persecutions and deportations."

Lauristin's group has a good chance of holding the balance of power in the next government. Lauristin explained that the Moderates have supported Lennart Meri out of a desire for change.

He has many objections to the policies of the rightist Isamaa group. In his view, Estonia cannot at this stage adopt a single-rate tax schedule, because the poor would be hardest hit.

Foreign Minister Denies Human Rights Violations

OW3009135392 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1140 GMT 30 Sep 92

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Addressing the 47th session of the UN General Assembly the Estonian Foreign Minister Jaan Manitski refuted the accusations voiced by the Russian representatives on violations of human rights in Estonia.

As it was reported earlier, on September [no date as received] the head of the Russian Foreign Ministry Andrey Kozyrev declared in the U.N. organization: "The situation under which 42% of the population of the Estonian republic are deprived from participation in the elections contradicts the international law." According to Manitski, it is not clear whether Russia can demand participation of its citizens in the parliamentary elections of other state. Manitski reported that experts of the Conference on Cooperation and Security in Europe had been invited to Estonia to get acquainted with the situation on human rights. The Estonian Minister believes that Russia could follow this example. Manitski reminded that many foreign experts recognize the decree on citizenship of the Estonian republic as the most liberal in the world.

Jaan Manitski emphasized the necessity of urgent and unconditional withdrawal of all Russian units from Estonia. The three Baltic states submitted a draft of an appropriate resolution to the UN General Assembly.

Government Prepares Reports on Human Rights

OW3009133792 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1138 GMT 30 Sep 92

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Estonian government intends to form a working group to prepare accounts on fulfillment of 11 international conventions which Estonia joined in September last year. The deputy Foreign Minister of Estonia Enn Liimets told "IF" [INTERFAX] that late this year the accounts are to be submitted to the UN Committee on human rights.

Representatives of the Ministry of Justice, Interior and Foreign Ministries, and of several other departments are members of this group.

Estonian Congress Ends 10th Session

LD2809154092 Tallinn Radio Tallinn Network in Estonian 1700 GMT 26 Sep 92

[Excerpts] The Estonian Congress has ended its work.

At the 10th session, held on 26 September, a declaration was adopted on restoration of lawful state power in Estonia and on the end of the Estonian Congress' mandate with the announcement of Riigikogu election results. The 10th session of the Estonian Congress recognized that its aims had been achieved.

A statement was adopted on the legal status of Estonia. The Congress proposes to the Riigikogu that it adopt a resolution, once it has assembled, stating that from the legal standpoint the present Republic of Estonia is identical to the Republic of Estonia which retained its de facto independence until 16 June 1940.

The Estonian Congress adopted a statement to the Riigikogu which requests that the Estonian citizen's identification document to be recognized as an official internal document proving one's identity. The statement recommends that the Estonian citizen's identification document qualify as the appropriate document in applying for an Estonian passport. The statement also considers it necessary to grant Estonian citizenship to people who applied for said status before 24 February 1990.

The Estonian Congress endorsed the Estonian Committee's statement to the Russian Government.

Here are excerpts from [Chairman] Tunne Kelam's speech.

[Begin Kelam recording] The aim of the Estonian Congress has been to restore the nation-state which was seriously threatened by the Soviet occupation and colonization and to preserve the Estonian people; to preserve them as a majority and as masters. [passage omitted]

Another aim of the Estonian Congress is to unite Estonians throughout the world and to have the rights of our emigres as masters recognized anew. This aim, too, has been achieved. [passage omitted]

Thus one can say that the main aims of the Estonian Congress have been carried out 100 percent. [passage omitted]

Latvia

Dinevics on Complicated Talks With Russia

LD2909142492 Riga Radio Riga Network in Latvian 1830 GMT 29 Sep 92

[Text] A briefing was held today at the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Latvia for the foreign diplomats accredited in our country.

Minister of State Janis Dinevics and Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Martins Virsis informed the diplomats about the results of the latest round of talks between Latvia and Russia. The head of the Latvian delegation pointed out that the Russian delegation was more aggressively disposed than at the previous meetings and tried to strain the atmosphere of the talks. The course of the talks also was made more complicated by a condition put by the opposite side, according to which all the signed documents come into force only after ratification in the Supreme Soviet of Russia. Such a precondition, according to Janis Dinevics, makes one question how productive the future talks might be. The minister of state reminded everyone once again that Latvia was interested in the participation of independent foreign experts in the talks.

Then Martins Virsis informed those present at the briefing that Russia was continuing to sell products of its arms industry via Latvian territory. He mentioned as an example a Russian submarine sold recently to Iran. He stressed that such neighbor country's deals were undermining Latvia's international prestige. Martins Virsis appealed to the world community to back up Latvia's efforts to discontine this trade.

Godmanis Criticizes Trade Treaty With Russia

LD2909093092 Riga Radio Riga Network in Latvian 2000 GMT 24 Sep 92

[Excerpt] As we already mentioned in the news, on 24 September Prime Minister Ivars Godmanis gave a news conference at the Council of Ministers.

[Begin Godmanis recording] On the issue of the treaty with Russia: As you know, a free treaty has been concluded between Estonia and Russia. Unfortunately I do not see it as a free treaty. It says: Agreement on free trade between the Republic of Estonia and the Russian Federation.

There are three things here that ultimately I do not think are acceptable. If it is a matter of a free-trade treaty, then it's a question of [word indistinct], if we look at the question of (?customs). (?If) export tariffs appear, and all the positions on export customs, then it is no longer any kind of free trade; when they introduce customs levies, that's not free trade. If there's a ban on re-exports, then that isn't free trade either. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Explains State Enterprise Debts

LD2509211692 Riga Radio Riga Network in Latvian 1730 GMT 24 Sep 92

[Text] Council of Ministers Chairman Ivars Godmanis today explained at a news conference his claims against state enterprises. He maintained that there are large unsold reserves of finished products in the factories but the industrialists are not paying taxes into the state budget. Assuming 100 percent production in a month, the Kompresors state enterprise, for example, has 240 percent goods reserves, and debts of 19 million rubles [R] to the state budget. The radio factory has 188 percent goods accumulated, and a debt of R13 million. However, the record belongs to the Daugavpils chain factory, which is storing nine and a half months' production in its warehouses and is not paying the state budget R75 million. Also, more than nine months' output is stored in warehouses by the Rigas Tekstils enterprise, but at light industrial enterprises in general not quite two months' production is in storage.

Soldiers Face Shortage of Latvian Rubles

PM2909110792 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 24 Sep 92 p 2

[Report by Vasiliy Belyakov from the Northwestern Group of Forces press center: "There Are no Latvian Rubles at the Cash Desk of the Northwestern Group of Forces"]

[Text] A difficult situation has developed within many Russian units stationed in Latvia. The whole matter revolves around the fact that officers have begun to receive their monetary allowance at an inopportune moment. The agreed sums of money are always at the cash desk by the appointed time but... in Russian rubles, which are not legal tender in Latvia. What they need are Latvian rubles [rublis].

It is, of course, no problem to change Russian rubles into Latvian ones, but you will receive from 60 to 80 kopeks in exchange for your hard-earned ruble. The Latvian Republic Government is avoiding resolving this important question. Suffice it to say that, as Vladimir Molchanov, chief accountant for the Northwestern Group of Forces financial service, reported, the Latvian bank has not yet officially changed money for units situated on its territory. The group's headquarters receives many letters on this subject from units. For example, this was received bearing Colonel Aleksandr Starchenko's signature: "Local suppliers like the bread combine, the butter plant, and the procurements office have stopped delivering products because they are not paid for in advance in Latvian rubles." An eloquent testimony to the legalized robbery of servicemen is contained in a letter from Colonel Yevgeniy Smirnov: "Now in order to pay out the monthly salary, we lose 600,000 rubles in the exchange, but "services" at the exchange bureaus are becoming more expensive all the time. In some places the exchange rate is 20 percent." It is clear that the situation urgently needs to be resolved.

Commission Views Coastal Defense Proposal

LD2809135392 Riga Radio Riga Network in Latvian 2000 GMT 24 Sep 92

[Excerpt] On 24 September, the Defense and Internal Affairs Commission convened at the Supreme Council. What it achieved was related by Talavs Jundzis, leader of the session, member of the Defense and Internal Affairs Commission, and Lativan defense minister.

[Begin Jundzis recording] Regardless of the fact that I had to lead this commission session, I must say immediately that the thoughts of the commission members as a result of the discussion on the issue that has already created a certain resonance in society; it was nonetheless quite unequivocal. Last time at the plenary session we examined the law relating to defense questions on its first reading, a proposal appeared from the Environment Protection Commission not to form a naval force but to create a coastal defense service which would have a militarized structure. Well, that was the question that in the first instance naturally alarmed the Latvian Defense Forces. Perhaps they were not the only ones who were alarmed.

At this meeting we analyzed in great detail the essence of the proposal. I must say we had a lot of help from those specialists who participated with the deputies in this meeting, that is, the minister of maritime affairs and deputy minister and the chairman of the Maritime Affairs Commission. Also taking part from the Environment Protection Commission was Mr. (?Cilinskis). [passage omitted] [end recording]

Decree on Parliamentary Elections Changed

OW3009141292 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1139 GMT 30 Sep 92

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Latvian Supreme Soviet passed in its second wording a decree "On the fifth elections to Sejm" which contains a number of changes in comparison with the pre-war decree on parliamentary elections.

In particular, the age qualification has been changed: every citizen of Latvia of 18 years old (earlier it was 21) can participate in the elections.

While discussing the draft decree the Supreme Soviet has adopted a concept of voting - the elector can introduce

remarks by striking out one of the candidates in the framework of one list. The pre-war decree on elections foresaw an elector's right to write down a candidate from another list instead of a candidate to be deleted.

The deputies annulled the previous provision stating that parties having at least 2% of the electors' votes can be granted places in Sejm. Now they need 4%.

Latvia will be divided into 5 election districts. Any organizations has a right to present lists of candidates to the deputies of Sejm if these lists are signed by 100 electors and an insurance costing 150 minimal wages (at present - 75 thousand rubles) must be paid in a bank.

Budget Deficit Persists Despite Emergency Moves

LD3009090992 Riga Radio Riga Network in Latvian 1400 GMT 28 Sep 92

[Excerpt] The budget deficit, which currently amounts to approximately 3 billion rubles, is not decreasing in spite of emergency measures carried out by the government. This was told to a BNS News Agency correspondent by Gatis Kaminskis, the director of the budget department of the Latvian Finance Ministry. Kaminskis also stressed that the budget deficit could not decrease until October, when a new tax system comes into effect. [passage omitted]

Unions, Businessmen Urge Economic Policy Review

OW2609234492 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1906 GMT 26 Sep 92

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] On Friday [25 September], representatives of the Latvian Association of Free Trade Unions, the Union of Employers, the Union of Private Entrepreneurs, and the Medium and Small Business Association signed an appeal to the parliament, the government, and the Bank of Latvia urging an immediate review of the economic and social policies of the republican government.

Andris Silins, Chairman of the Trade Unions Association, said at a press conference in Riga that among the key demands of the trade unions and entrepreneurs are the preparation and publication of a detailed economic program and a single tax policy, as well as the lifting of the 15% customs duty on imported goods.

Silins said that employers and employees having set the same demands proves the urgent need to resolve these problems. Otherwise, he noted, the state will be plunged into a deep economic and political crisis. Unless the government meets the demands mentioned in the appeal within two weeks, the trade unions may go on strike, Silins said.

Harvest Meets Basic Demand; Shortages Noted

LD2809144092 Riga Radio Riga Network in Latvian 0600 GMT 28 Sep 92

[Summary] In comparison with the predicted total grain crop yield of some 900,000 tonnes, to date already, including the peasant farms, 1,119,000 tonnes has been harvested, but this falls short of the fodder and bread demand. The not very high potato yield of 108 qunitals per hectare will, however, fully meet the republic's demand. And the good price offered has stimulated increased areas sown to winter grain crops, which amount to date to, including the peasant farms, approximately 180,000 hectares, in comparison with 160,000 hectares to this time last year.

Lithuania

Landsbergis, Yeltsin Agree on Pullout Meeting

OW2509174892 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1540 GMT 25 Sep 92

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Head of Lithuanian parliament Vytautas Landsbergis and Russian President Boris Yeltsin agreed on Thursday [24 September] during a phone conversion that the groups developing bilateral agreements on the removal of Russian troops would meet in October.

On Friday the Lithuanian parliament's press representative said that Yeltsin even announced that he had given state secretary to the Russian President Gennadiy Burbulis the order to activate work to prepare for a meeting of the two countries' leaders.

As is already known, on September 8th Yeltsin refused to sign the primary agreement in a packet of Lithuanian-Russian documents on troop removal from Lithuania by August 31 1993, claiming the text needed improvement. It is thought that the agreement will be signed during the meeting of the two leaders either on October 1st or 2nd. Presently the Russian parliament's committee on international affairs has distributed a statement which calls on Yeltsin to postpone the meeting and turn the agreement over to the Supreme Soviet for revision.

Defense Minister on Withdrawal of Russian Troops

MK3009101592 Moscow KURANTY in Russian 30 Sep 92 p 6

[Interview with Audrius Butkevicius, national defense minister, by Yevgeniy Krutikov; date, place not given: "Russia in a Hurry To Withdraw Troops"]

[Text] Despite the fact that an agreement in principle has been reached on the schedule and sequence of the withdrawal of Russian troops from Lithuania, a great deal remains unclear in the sides' mutual relations. Officials are trying to clarify the situation as much as they can. Audrius Butkevicius, Lithuanian Republic national defense minister, for example, believes that Russia is in a hurry to withdraw the troops.

[Krutikov] Mr. Butkevicius, what is the numerical strength and composition of the Russian Army units being withdrawn from Lithuania?

[Butkevicius] The following are located on Lithuanian territory: coastal defense divisions, a motorized rifle division and an airborne division, a separate airborne assault battalion, a long-range artillery brigade, a rocket artillery

regiment, a separate helicopter regiment, and a fighter aviation regiment. They are armed with 448 tanks, 1,253 infantry fighting vehicles and airborne fighting vehicles, 269 artillery pieces of a caliber exceeding 100 mm, 60 MiG-23 fighter-bombers, 61 helicopters, and 66 "Grad" and "Uragan" rocket launchers. Around 20,500 men altogether.

[Krutikov] Do these figures not seem an underestimation to you?

[Butkevicius] You know, I could not determine them definitively right until the final night before the meeting between Mr. Landsbergis and Mr. Yeltsin, and I only managed to do so right at the last moment.

[Krutikov] Is this connected with the stance of the Russian Defense Ministry?

[Butkevicius] We were rather surprised at not being able to get in touch with General Grachev quickly in Moscow. For a while, we believed that the meeting would be canceled, since Grachev was not receiving us and we could not specify the necessary technical details. We had already been informed that the Russian Ministry of Defense was actively opposed to the conclusion of a compromise treaty on the withdrawal of Russian troops from Lithuania. We informed our head of state about this, and he was forced to announce this publicly. After that, the process of coordinating certain technical details proceeded more quickly.

[Krutikov] Yes, but they have to monitor the status of their troops—units are now being withdrawn from Lithuania practically into open countryside, and the officers' economic position is very difficult....

[Butkevicius] However, these questions can be resolved in a different way. We were prepared to construct houses and new garrisons for them, but we were not prepared to pay cash. Ultimately this is the Russian command's problem: As far as we know, a significant proportion of these subunits, including the elite paratroop division from Kaunas, will be withdrawn to the Caucasus. Russia itself has been interested in the withdrawal of significant subunits from Lithuania, but political considerations prevented them admitting this. I repeat that we are concerned that the Defense Ministry is starting to pursue its own political line. In civilized countries it is (how can I put this mildly?) unusual for the military to do this.

[Krutikov] Are you prepared to agree to the existence of Soviet military bases on Lithuanian territory?

[Butkevicius] No proposals of this sort have been made to us. Furthermore, we do not have Russian long-term military installations on our territory. We have virtually nothing that could be turned into a military base. [Krutikov] Which units will be withdrawn first? [Butkevicius] The paratroopers stationed in the area around Vilnius will be the first to leave Lithuania.

[Krutikov] Minister, is a military threat from the East still a priority in Lithuania's defense strategy?

[Butkevicius] We have no priority threats. We are preparing to protect Lithuania's independence, and the Lithuanian Army will aim to protect the country regardless of whether we are threatened from the East or the West.

[Krutikov] Forgive me, minister, but has national defense not put pressure of a sort on the Lithuanian political leadership to speed up the withdrawal of the Russian troops?

[Butkevicius] That was the stance of the Russian Foreign Ministry, with which Saudargas only agreed, but no final documents were signed at the time at the foreign ministers' meeting in Moscow. As for national defense, we have not exerted any pressure, and we only proposed our schedule for the withdrawal of the troops. Incidentally, we were unpleasantly surprised once again when we found out that the Russian president saw the final text for the first time actually at the meeting with Mr. Landsbergis. Naturally, he wanted to make amendments to the document, and he made them directly on the final text. As a result, we had to agree that this document, like certain other political decisions, it still had work to be done on it.

Landsbergis on Soviet Troops, Ties With Poland

AU2809184392 Berlin NEUE ZEIT in German 23 Sep 92 p 6

[Interview with Vytautas Landsbergis by Maria Graczyk in Vilnius; date not given: "We Are Expanding Europe"]

[Excerpt] [Graczyk] The last barricades are being removed in front of the parliament. No Soviet tanks are seen nearby. Has the danger to your country disappeared?

[Landsbergis] The tanks are positioned 10 minutes away from the parliament. We consider their presence—the presence of Russian troops on Lithuanian territory—as a continuing threat. There are still many troops with great offensive capability—let me stress this—with great offensive and not defensive capability! Thus, the security of the Lithuanian state will depend considerably on further developments in Russia, on the continued existence of a democratic government in Moscow.

[Graczyk] Are you saying that Lithuania is only an independent state on paper?

[Landsbergis] No. Above all, our parliament, our government, and all the legislation adopted after the declaration of independence in March 1990 are proof of our sovereignty. We also have our own police and administrative system, which may not yet be very efficient, but which was reformed on the basis of our own laws. Thus, the remnants of the former Soviet Union on our territory are the foreign army, which will now withdraw from our country, and the ruble, which will also be replaced shortly. We are currently working on the introduction of our own currency, the litas.

[Graczyk] More than 10 states have formed on the territory of the former Soviet Union. Most of them have similar problems and insist on their newly-won sovereignty. Where Western Europe is trying to achieve integration, the reverse is taking place in eastern part of our continent

[Landsbergis] This is not a reverse process but a return to the normal situation. Something is being restored on the basis of the free will of the people and not as a result of forced integration, as is the case when a country is conquered or annexed. Thus, one cannot compare the republics of the former USSR and the EC countries. As a matter of fact, Gorbachev's propaganda tried to depict us as reactionary. Fortunately, it was unsuccessful.

The former Soviet republics are striving for greater independence, but they remain within the Commonwealth of Independent States. Something similar is happening in the Baltic countries that were once annexed by the Soviet Union. They are trying to restore the prewar situation while at the same time, aiming at integration. Before 1939 the Baltic Union was based on a treaty between Lithuania, Latvia, and Estonia. Now we are trying to revive it and develop it further. Thus, we are trying to create a common market. Apart from coordinating our foreign policies, which we have done on an informal basis for two years, we also want to provide mutual assistance during this difficult period. Rapprochement is proceeding in the three Baltic states. Finland is showing interest, too. We would be glad if we could establish a Baltic community of all countries in the region as soon as possible.

[Graczyk] How do you intend to improve relations between Lithuania and Poland and ease tensions between the people of those countries?

[Landsbergis] You are assuming that relations between Lithuania and Poland are not good. In my view, they are quite good, one could say normal. Naturally, there are political forces that exploit some contentious issues and misunderstandings that exist between neighboring countries. The government's task is to distance itself from these forces that would like capitalize on controversy. It is our task to remove and overcome disagreements. We are trying to do that.

[Graczyk] One of the arguments in favor of the disputed dissolution of two Polish district administrations was that the Poles living in Lithuania supported the attempted coup in Moscow in 1991.

[Landsbergis] I would not say that they supported it. We have never leveled sweeping accusations against the Poles. I have not even hinted at something like that, but I warned against generalizations. It is true, however, that the communist nomenclature wielded great influence in areas mainly inhabited by Poles. Thus, the communists hoped for Moscow's return and therefore, supported the coup attempt. Because they held power in these two particular district councils, the two district administrations were dissolved. [passage omitted]

Radio, Television Election Poll Results Conflict

OW2509160392 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1445 GMT 25 Sep 92

[Report prepared by Andrey Pershin, Andrey Petrovskiy, and Vladimir Shishlin, edited by Boris Grishchenko; from "Presidential Bulletin"—following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] As parliamentary elections set for October 25th draw nearer, a survey by the Sociology Laboratory of Vilnius University showed that the most popular political forces in Lithuania today are the movements "Sajudis" and the Democratic Labor Party. The poll showed that 21.4% of Lithuanians plan to vote for Sajudis candidates in elections for the Lithuanian parliament. The Democratic Labor Party has the support of 14.5% of the respondents.

A public opinion poll by the Department for Social Research of the Lithuanian television and radio painted a different picture. This polled put the Democratic Labor Party in first place. 19.7% favored the party, 27.7 were against. Sajudis was fifth in popularity (17.0% and 38.8%, respectively), losing even to the movement Center, the Social Democratic Party, and the sobriety movement.

Both research organizations assert that their polls reflect public opinion in Lithuania. The Director of the Vilnius University center Rasa Alisauskiene told "Baltfax" that the significant difference in results was caused by "differently worded questions to the same issue", and different methodology used by the two organizations.

Surveys showed that Speaker of the Lithuanian Parliament Vytautas Landsbergis and the leader of the Democratic Labor Party, former first secretary of the communist party, and Chairman of the Presidium of the Parliament Algirdas Brazauskas are favored in parliamentary elections.

If presidential elections were held in September, 39% of Lithuanian voters would prefer Landsbergis, and 19.1% Brazauskas.

IF [INTERFAX] Note: No date has been set for presidential elections in Lithuania.

Under a law on elections in the parliament, results of future popularity polls will not be published.

An interesting note: the names of former government head Gediminas Vagnorius and former chairman of the presidium of the former Lithuanian Supreme Soviet, current leader of the Democratic Party Algirdas Brazauskas are included in a list of candidates for deputies to the future Lithuanian Parliament in the 59th district in Kaisiadorys. Brazauskas had an overwhelming Viktory in the last elections in this district.

IF Note: As reported earlier, half of the parliamentary seats will go to deputies chosen by a majority vote, the other half by a proportional vote. Thus, if Vagnorius loses to Brazauskas, he will have the possibility of gaining a parliamentary seat through Sajudis, on whose list his name is third. On the other hand, Brazauskas risks little as well since he heads the list of candidates from his party.

Ministry Protests Russian Shelling Accident

WS2809130292 Vilnius ELTA NEWS BULLETIN in English 1315 GMT 25 Sep 92

[From ELTA "NEWS BULLETIN" No. 87]

[Text] 25 September 1992—Without having informed the commandant's headquarters of the Lithuanian Ministry of National Defence, on September 21 at 4.30 p.m. the

Russian 7th paratroops division 108th regiment was carrying out an exercise in shooting accumulative projectiles on its training ground near the village of Rokai in Kaunas district. Sixteen projectiles fell outside the training ground on the clay quarry of the Rokai ceramics enterprise where many people were working. Though greatly frightened, fortunately no one was killed or hurt. A projectile hit a high voltage electricity distributor putting out the supply of electricity in the quarry and the construction site. According to preliminary calculations, the damage to the electric network amounts to 225,000 roubles and to the ceramic enterprise 223,000 roubles.

When the Military Commandant of Kaunas V. Vilkelis arrived on the scene and reminded the Russian military of the Article 8 of the agreement signed by the Ministers of Defence of Lithuania and Russia on September 8 this year "On the regulations of the functioning and conduct of the personnel and the armed forces due to be withdrawn", the Russian officers replied they had received no orders to this effect though they had read about the agreement in a newspaper. The next day, September 22, the Russian armed forces went on with their shooting exercise.

Concerning this dangerous incident the Ministry of National Defence of Lithuania has launched a protest to the Ministry of Defence of the Russian Federation.